Daily Report

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FBIS-LAT-91-075 *18 April 1991*

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Cuba

CPSU Message to PCC on Socialism's Anniversary

PA1704152091 Havana International Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Secretariat [as heard] of the CPSU Central Committee has sent a congratulatory message to the Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the socialist nature of the Cuban revolution.

We cordially congratulate you on the occasion of this significant date and we express hope for the successful realization of political and economic development plans, the message said.

The note ends by stressing that Soviet Communists highly appreciate the friendship and fruitful cooperation between our parties and peoples. It is the desire of the CPSU to fully contribute to the development and strengthening of our future relations, said the document from the Soviet Communists to their Cuban counterparts.

Soviet General at DAAFAR Anniversary Party

FL1704185591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The 30th anniversary of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR] of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] was celebrated by the DAAFAR General Staff in Havana. Party leaders and FAR generals, chiefs, and officers participated, as well as Army General Ivan Moiseyevich Tretyak, commander in chief of the Soviet antiaircraft defense. Before the parade, greetings from FAR Minister Army General Raul Castro were read. The order conferring the title of master aviation pilot on Colonel Arnaldo Tamayo was also read. DAAFAR founders received certificates for their 30 years of service. In his closing speech, Division General Julio Casas Regueiro repeated our people's conviction about continuing to build socialism.

Soviet Deputies Tour Rural Area Facilities

FL1804020691 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] A group of Soviet deputies has toured facilities under construction in Las Guasimas in the Arroyo Naranjo Municipality. Gerardo Hernandez, president of the People's Government of Managua and director of a mini-brigade zone, explained to the deputies the work being done in Las Guasimas with the help of the permanently mobilized workers and area residents.

The Soviet deputies became familiar with the characteristics and task objectives of the mini-brigades and this rural area's prospect for development. The deputies were very impressed by their visit to a family doctor house-office, where they were briefed on the services provided to the communities in our country. It was explained to them that projects such as these are built by the people themselves.

U.S. Infant Mortality Seen as Rights Violation

FL1704183991 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Senator Christopher Dodd and a well-known Hollywood actor, Jeff Bridges, the son of another famous actor, Lloyd Bridges, have been talking about the dramatic situation of tens of thousands of American children who will die this year for lack of food or basic medical care. When I refer to the lack of medical care, I mean all those children who die of whooping cough and other illnesses which are completely avoidable with preventive innoculations. One vaccination in the United States can cost up to $50, and there are many children who, because their families lack the money, cannot obtain these vaccinations.

There are 46,000 children who are going to die this year because of malnutrition. This is malnutrition and lack of basic medical care in the richest country in the world. Also, this is a country that is able to spend 1 billion dollars a day making war against another country, as the United States just did against Iraq. This means that there is money to make war, but there is none to protect its own children. This is one way of infringing on these children's human rights, since the first human right is the right to life. The situation is such in the United States that, according to the ABC Television Network, the United States is in last place in infant mortality among the most developed capitalist countries of the world.

In addition to these 46,000 needless deaths that are going to be registered this year in the United States among children up to 5 years of age, we must add the 17,000 children who are going to die as a result of physical and sexual abuse at the hands of their parents, caretakers, or teachers. This is another matter that Senator Dodd is dealing with on his Senate committee, and according to him this year 2,300,000 American children are going to be victims of this type of violence and 17,000 will die as a consequence. This type of violence is also a violation of these children's human and civil rights.

This is happening, friends, in the country that claims to be the center of freedom and democracy in the world, and this what they are trying to shove down the throats of other countries with their so-called Pax Americana.

PRC Journalists Visit PRENSA LATINA

FL1704185691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] A delegation of journalists from the PRC has traveled to Havana today at the invitation of the PRENSA LATINA international news agency. The delegation, headed by Pang Bingan, deputy director general of the XINHUA News Agency, has among its aims

renewing the cooperation agreement between the two press agencies. Among the group of Chinese professionals visiting us is the first journalist from that country who arrived in our country after the revolutionary triumph in 1959.

Nicaragua's Problems Due to Imperialists

FL1704150091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 17 Apr 91

["Our Opinion" commentary by Ariel Larramendi]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro is now on a trip to the United States with the objective of obtaining financial assistance for her country. Yesterday she met with the North American legislators and today she will have an audience with President George Bush, and the topic for discussion will be the same: the need for assistance.

Violeta Barrios said, in the joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that her government will need financial help for the next 10 years in order to recuperate from the devastation caused by the Sandinist regime. The Nicaraguan president said: Our economy was destroyed; our productive capacity was left in shambles; the country was left completely without capital resources; we urgently need foreign investment, credit, and international cooperation in order to lift us from the ashes that the former dictatorship left us.

In the mind of Dona Violeta, the blockade imposed by the United States, almost from the day the Sandinists gained power, never existed in Nicaragua. The war imposed by the contras, armed and trained in the United States and based in Honduras in order to prevent Daniel Ortega from governing, was a mere illusion. It seems that teachers were never killed, harbors were never mined, and the economy was never destabilized according to the plan applied against the Central American country by the CIA. Moreover, in the mind of Violeta, the International Court of Justice at The Hague never sanctioned the U.S. for its machinations against the Nicaraguan economy, which certainly, because of this decision by a UN tribunal, constitutes an obstacle against loans to the government of Violeta Barrios.

In the strategy carried out by the northern neighbor against the Sandinist government, Nicaragua was placed in the security perimeter of the United States and, as a consequence, was pushed into the East-West conflict. As the causes for that conflict disappear, with the end of the so-called cold war and as the world converts to a unipolar system, combined with the departure of the Sandinist regime, Nicaragua has ceased to have the importance that it had in U.S. strategy and regional geopolitics.

Neoliberal economics does not grant privileges in return for acts of contrition for past sins. The fight is now every man for himself in the arena of trade, investments, and financial resources on the world's economic battlefields. In its struggle for development, Nicaragua will have to fit into this schema. This means that President Violeta Barrios will have to continue her pilgrimage, knocking on the doors of the rich and powerful countries to remind them that Nicaragua has returned to the fold of the liberal democratic nations.

The request that Violeta Barrios will most assuredly repeat today to her U.S. counterpart, George Bush, on continuous aid for 10 years, is much too ambitious. She is asking for a unique privilege, and Nicaragua is not the only country in such a situation.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Ecuador

FL1804014891 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] PRENSA LATINA has reported from Quito that Cuba and Ecuador have signed a technical, economic, and scientific cooperation agreement for the exchange of information on energy. A source from Ecuador's state fuel enterprise pointed out that through this agreement Cuba and Ecuador will exchange knowledge on oil legislation and the drafting of risk contracts for the exploration and exploitation of crude, oil deposit evaluations, and environmental protection.

* Roberto Robaina on Youth Programs, Participation

91CA0097A Havana GRANMA in Spanish 7 Mar 91 p 3

[Article on interview with UJC (Union of Young Communists) First Secretary Roberto Robaina by Katiuska Blanco, Sara Mas, Alberto Nunez, and Cesar Gomez; place and date not given]

[Text] Just a few days ago a foreign journalist said to Robaina: "I want you to give me a categorical answer: 'Are young people indispensable to the Revolution?'" If he said they were, he thought at the time, it may seem that young people think they are the center of the world. If he said they were not, he would in a way be lying.

His response was: "It seems to me that if they were decisive in achieving the Revolution, they are decisive in developing it."

He repeats the remark now, adding: "When some will say: in the 80's and 90's the country played a fundamental role, and the people had to head up major campaigns, and when they have to ask for an accounting from the small post or the battlefront that belonged to Cuban youth, what we want is to be able to say that they rose to the occasion."

Being True to the Times

"We also had to break molds in our work. Now, I think that we would be making a mistake if we came up with the same ideas. There is no reason for 1991 to be like 1990."

The leaders of Cuban youth realize that the fruits that they are reaping now were sown years ago, because it was precisely the previous UJC [Union of Young Communists] leadership that conceived and fostered many of the current changes that are now coming to pass.

The UJC is looking for recreational options. The doors of the Cuba Pavilion have been opened to all, without prejudices such as against long hair, because no one in the UJC would ever think of putting a barber at the door.

"Our cadres have to be up on everything that is happening. Our most important success has been to salvage communication with adolescents, which we were on the verge of losing.

"The National Bureau is concerned about attending to young people between 25 and 30, who are dissatisfied because most of our activities are directed towards teenagers. We are not forgetting anyone. The point is to represent everyone.

"Also, because of the social impact that the FEU [Federation of University Students] and the FEEM [Federation of Secondary School Students] have, the young people there are better represented vis-a-vis the state and the party. Yet, we are not satisfied with the level of representation of working youth, who are playing a major role in the country's economic development and who, numerically speaking, are our largest force.

"We are talking about representing working youth as never before and about their being present at our leadership levels as a fundamental force."

Young people between 20 and 30, with a high level of education, will soon be a majority in the country. A realization of this is a valuable tool for finding out where young people are headed and for a scientific study of their interests and concerns.

Revamping Basic Secondary School

In 1991 the UJC wants to continue its work where it has accomplished the least.

"We are involved in a revision of study programs in basic secondary school, in a discussion with the ministry of the main needs, and in the restructuring of work with the pioneers."

Students at this level would rather not be viewed as small children anymore, and when psychology operates this way, we at times do the opposite.

Roberto feels that basic secondary school has to be thoroughly revamped.

"There were hardly any UJC or party members in many of these centers. The first thing that we have to do is create a force there, without ruling out the possibility that some members will take up this task because it is of prime strategic importance."

This is not the only issue for analysis, however. Robaina brings up other, no less important ones, such as technology and pedagogy, which require certain changes so that they can better meet the current needs of higher education.

Moreover, we will also have to look at primary school, where there are problems to be tackled as well. The most worrisome thing is that children are not getting answers to many of the questions that they are asking, because the family says that this is the school's job, and vice versa.

We Have To Think About What Unites Us

His goal for relations between member youth and religious believers is, above all, to wipe out prejudice, to stop seeing a believer in the classroom as someone odd. Roberto says that "we have to think about what unites us, to move towards what we can do together."

Sound arguments and the level of training of the members themselves are vital in this relationship. The sense of unity that governs the party's policy towards believers who are revolutionaries is not yet well understood.

Human relations between believers and nonbelievers cannot be resolved just by modifying this or that document. It is not a question of changing words; rather, there must be understanding and communication among revolutionaries. This, in essence, is their approach.

What About Conversing With Foreign Tourists?

There have been repeated attempts to change views on this issue, and even today the UJC leader acknowledges that not much headway has been made, "neither oneself nor the manner of looking at this situation in others."

As a result of a proper policy of encouraging tourism, this issue is now high on the agenda. "Otherwise, foreign visitors will have a chance to converse only with antisocial elements, not with the working people." What view of our country will the former provide if we revolutionaries hold ourselves back so that we will not be thought of as having ideological weaknesses?

"There are other phenomena," says Roberto, jumping to an issue that is not unrelated to the previous one. The existence of young people whose behavior is unacceptable cannot be ignored, no matter how small their percentage. Even if there is just one such young person, he or she is our responsibility, in accordance with the goals of education, health care, and human dignity.

Problems are not resolved through drastic measures but rather by digging deeper into them. He mentions the need to conduct sociological research but also to put such research aside when it portrays problems as less or much more complex than they actually are.

"The reasons are not always traumatic events, broken families, or disadvantaged conditions. The causes are more complex than they seem. Just a few days ago we

met with some of the ones who cause the most worries and problems, and none of them has parents who are divorced, lives in difficult conditions, or even comes from a broken family."

What sort of presence will the UJC have at the Fourth Party Congress? Will the UJC take over functions of State agencies and institutions? What about the UJC's anti-imperialism?

The barrage of questions met with a barrage of answers.

"We now discuss which issues the UJC brings to the Party Congress, in a desire to play our role, because we are thoroughly committed to the work that we are doing."

We are talking about young people's opinions on the country's key issues, such as the workings of the party, the food program, mechanisms of socialist democracy, people's government, job location, ideological training, the educational system, and culture, among others.

"The UJC is so active that there can be no issue on which its way of looking at things is not present."

As for taking over functions, Robaina feels that first we have to change the idea that "your area is here but not there." Recreation is one of them, and the UJC unquestionably has a role to play in preparing activities and finding out what young people are attracted to and like. "All that has been accomplished in this field is real; it means taking over functions. We did so quite deliberately. We talked things over and had not gotten any further than understanding each other. We thought that the time had come to go beyond the thinking stage and to start showing that with the people and the resources we have, we can do a lot more things than we really are."

"Fidel has specifically told us: 'You have to play the role of electric prods.' So we have to discharge this function and we are taking the first steps here."

"We have had to negotiate for things, organize, encourage, and when this is accomplished, false arguments are refuted, and imagination overcomes a lack of resources. Some agencies have responded very bashfully, and this is when the UJC can become an 'electric prod' in other areas."

Our People Do Not Forget

"The overwhelming majority of the youngsters are deeply anti-imperialist." The first secretary of the UJC does not forget what this generation has gone through, what it has seen. Their attitude has to do with the attempts to ruin the country, the constant Yankee aggression, the invasions of Granada and Panama, and the introduction of the virus that killed 100 of our children. Such aggression has heightened our feelings of Cuban-ness and patriotism.

The Youngsters Are Starting To Give Lessons

"Material concerns are not uppermost in their lives; we have seen this for ourselves in our meetings with young people. We parents are the worst behaved today, because as children we did not have what we want to give or to promise to the boys and girls, the adolescents who are our children. Yet the youngsters are starting to give stimulating lessons. They are starting to show that the material things that they are being given are not what they need most, and they are saying so."

Now then, did yesterday's young people do more than those of today? Are the youngsters who accomplished great feats, conducted literacy drives, and served in the militias the overprotective parents of today?

"I think that today's young people are just as brave as yesterday's. What I do not think is correct is to blame today's adults, because life also shows us that when a youngster wants to get away from the 'old folks,' he finds reasons and sheds anything that ties him to them."

The youngsters have gone off to Pinar del Rio to work in the style of a literacy drive or a coffee harvest. They are beginning to say there that vacation-time agricultural labor is interesting today.

"Oh no, I am not blaming them; I am blaming those of us who years ago failed to organize vacation-time agricultural schools like the ones now. Neither the institution, nor the UJC itself, nor the city, nor Pinar del Rio.

"Parents also make the mistake of trying to save children 'from what I went through.' In the long run, that means handing over to society a worse product than they are."

If They Do Not Come to Us, We Go to Them

Every youngster who is on the street and is not studying or working has left a school or workplace. Roberto Robaina begins his analysis from this premise.

"They were not born disaffected, although we assist them when they already are and very seldom do we seek the reasons. What do we want to do? To strengthen work at the centers and, at the same time, to go looking for them around the country. Some are knocking on the doors of the municipal UJC for the first time.

"We are neither happy nor satisfied. In dealing with the disaffected and everyone who is distant from the UJC, we have to observe one principle: if they do not come to us, we have to go to them."

A cut in the size of the organization and a constant expansion of the group's activities that have anything to do with young people. This is how Robaina summarizes much of what is happening today in the organization. The 3,000 cadres all over the country are being reduced by more than 450.

The departments have disappeared; spheres are being combined, and only the municipal instructors have seen an increase in personnel.

Cooperation with psychologists, designers, artists, teachers, and economists is expanding in an interdisciplinary effort one of whose purposes is to gather information quickly so that the results of a given activity can be assessed and so that the next one can be better planned.

"This is what I am talking about: taking greater advantage of the professionalism of activists and collaborators who are enthusiastic about what we are doing."

We use them in some activities and events but have not done so in our everyday work.

Our current and future goal? To see to it that this approach filters down, that it does not remain in the intermediate levels, and above all that it becomes a daily routine; specifically, to go into the great, everyday battle with the awareness that we can wage it with the same dignity and courage with which we Cubans are capable of taking part in the major campaigns.

To us these are times of movin' up and movin' on.

* Role of Cooperatives in Food Program Viewed

91CA0094A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish
18 Jan 91 pp 28-31

[Interview with ANAP (National Association of Small Farmers) President Orlando Lugo Fonte by Caridad Carrobello; place and date not given; first paragraph is BOHEMIA introduction]

[Text]

The Moment of Truth Has Arrived

"The moment of truth" has come for Cuban agriculture, because it must achieve higher production during a special period marked by serious economic restrictions. Nonetheless, one of the people involved, Orlando Lugo Fonte, the president of the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers], is confident. The most recent plenum of the farmers group proclaimed in its appeal that it was prepared "to give our all without skimping on efforts or sacrifices." These words suddenly create a doubt in my mind:

[Carrobello] Didn't they do this before?

[Lugo Fonte] Words should not be taken out of context. If you take the complete paragraph, you will grasp the thread and see the reason for this wording. It it because there is a temporary situation in the country that requires precisely giving one's all.

I can assure you that Cuban farmers have always been on the side of their Revolution. All that we are we owe to it. He have participated actively in all the struggles, from colonial times. Furthermore, during the war of liberation, Fidel and Raul were reunited at Cinco Palmas because of the Sierra Maestra farmers.

[Carrobello] And what about right now?

[Lugo Fonte] One-hundred percent are not putting out a maximum effort. We still have farmers who sell on their own, say a hundred pounds of malangas, a pig. It would be unfair to think that this is what Cuban farmers are like; this is just a small minority who do not represent us. Yet they exist and are becoming very annoying during these times in our homeland. This is unacceptable. This is why we say that under these circumstances we have to give our all for the Revolution, for socialism.

[Carrobello] So do you think that in general all of the ANAP forces are being used fully to aid in the country's agriculture development?

[Lugo Fonte] It would be a mistake to think that. We still have 180 unprofitable cooperatives, and all of their resources and potential are not being fully used. There are still difficulties, even in the more than 1,000 profitable ones. For example, not all of them have plans for teams of oxen. Some are less organized than others; the leadership is weaker; the work is not always tied to production goals. In short, there is a set of problems that impact the efficiency, the profitability of the cooperatives.

[Carrobello] But when it comes to optimizing the use of your labor force, you are ahead of the state-run enterprises.

[Lugo Fonte] This is a fact, and it cannot be concealed. If we are compared to a state-run enterprise in terms of administrative personnel employed, there is a world of difference. Luckily, cooperatives have never lapsed into bureaucratism. The commander in chief himself is putting emphasis on the need to eliminate it from state-run enterprises.

We have 2.8 office workers per cooperative, and there are CPA's [Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives] with a single comrade who works as the accountant, balances the books, draws up the statistical models, does the payroll, and brings the money from the bank, and he has time for all of this. Fidel has called for retaining a maximum of 20 such employees in the big enterprises, and Minaz [Ministry of the Sugar Industry] and Minagri [Ministry of Agriculture] are working on it.

[Carrobello] Minagri hopes to make the state-run farm sector as profitable as the cooperative sector, or more so. What does Lugo think of this?

[Lugo Fonte] I am familiar with this question because I have had the chance to attend meetings of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, at which the commander in chief has given very precise instructions. A major irrigation program is under way for sugarcane. The CPA's that grow this crop are benefiting from this too. Now then, as for the state brigades, we have much

more efficient cooperative members. The cooperatives are producing an average of 10,000 arrobas [1 arroba = 25 pounds] more per caballeria [1 caballeria = 33.2 acres] than the state-run enterprises. I do not doubt that with hard work they can do as well we do.

[Carrobello] Why haven't they done so yet?

[Lugo Fonte] They have not done good work. This is the truth. It is more complicated than that, of course. It is not the same to grow 10,000 arrobas more per caballeria on a 40-caballeria CPA as on a 500-caballeria complex. But we have conveyed as much of our experience as possible to Minaz. There can be no rivalries here. We are like the two hands of one body. It is just like with the food program, which rests on three pillars: the state-run enterprises, the credit and services cooperatives, and the agricultural-livestock cooperatives. If any one of them falls, the food program fails.

[Carrobello] Not long ago Fidel met with 12 of the leading presidents of cooperatives. One of them, Crescencio Concepcion Perez, told me: "We have achieved high yields on little land and with few workers because we do not pay attention to how much each person makes but rather to how much he does." Would extending this policy help Minagri?

[Lugo Fonte] You are talking about the "La Nueva Cuba" CPA. I have had the chance to visit it often. The performance of this cooperative stems from good leadership, good soil, and the awareness of the farmers associated with it. They do not go around thinking about their daily wage (their advance) but rather about doing a good job, taking care of the CPA's resources, conserving. When the economic balance sheet arrives, this of course has an impact on the distribution of profits. We are interested in developing their consciousness as cooperative members, not their concern about wages, because otherwise there will be neither efficiency nor productivity nor good output. They would be working just to get out of a jam.

I have talked about all of this with the comrades at Minagri and the State Committee for Labor, at the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, and I think that the steps taken in connection with linkage to final production results are very encouraging. Each linkage program is being discussed by branch, on a case-by-case basis, without haste. The results are already being seen in microjet bananas, and we will achieve them in other crops as well.

I think that there are other factors that will help keep workers in agriculture, such as, for example, better living conditions. Magnificent camps are being built in Havana, and construction is also going to begin on the communities to encourage farm workers with everything they need: consumption by grower, work, housing, and an overall improvement in what their families need to live.

[Carrobello] You are talking about a stable agricultural labor force....

[Lugo Fonte] Yes, that is right. This is what we have in the cooperatives.

[Carrobello] Aren't you talking about the mobilized workers?

[Lugo Fonte] No, I think that agriculture, at peak moments, requires mobilized workers, say, when it comes time to harvest potatoes, tomatoes, tobacco, peppers, or garlic. But every crop requires a stable labor force to do the clearing, the planting, the fertilizing, and the irrigation, which cannot be done with mobilized workers.

[Carrobello] How are agricultural yields related to the resources employed in a given area?

[Lugo Fonte] Yields depend on the soil, on a whole series of factors, and especially on the fact that we have been and are an underdeveloped country. For example, let us talk about rice. Other countries produce more than we do, but I would like to see the comparison when we complete the engineering system in the rice enterprises and cooperatives.

We can improve our yields in potatoes, but we are not doing that bad. Only North and Central America are ahead of us....

[Carrobello] But I have learned that we are also among the countries that use the most resources per crop area.

[Lugo Fonte] Yes, that is true.

[Carrobello] That is precisely what I was talking about.

[Lugo Fonte] Well, there is no doubt that the rectification process and the special period itself are showing us that we have not been efficient. Now, with less fuel, with teams of oxen, we are doing more things.

[Carrobello] A farmer from Sancti Spiritus who for several years was the biggest grower of vegetables and tubers in the area told me that in a country like ours the markets ought to be overflowing with these items. What do you think?

[Lugo Fonte] That he is right. But it so happens that it is not just a matter of filling the markets, and I am not trying to justify the errors in our farming. We have had to use sizable amounts of resources for our rice, citrus fruit, and livestock plans, which did not even meet minimal requirements. Now, some lands have had to be used for tubers and vegetables. In Havana, 450 caballerias have been taken up for this in Batabano, Quivican, and Nueva Paz. In Santiago, Holguin, and Las Tunas as well. And all of this without neglecting or affecting sugar cane. We need more cane, not just to produce sugar but also to use as animal feed.

[Carrobello] Have measures been taken to deal with the farmers who sell to private individuals?

[Lugo Fonte] Well, the first is political. An in-depth discussion. Before Minagri applies a sanction to a farmer, Resolution 283 for example, which ranges from a warning or a sanction to transferring his lands to state ownership, we try hard to talk things over with the person involved, 10 times if necessary.

[Carrobello] And what do you think about the farmers who profit at the expense of the people's needs?

[Lugo Fonte] Some make higher profits than others for several reasons: the soil, irrigation potential, a favorable culture of production, and also the type of crop they grow. We have flower growers who make big profits and vegetable farmers who plant a caballeria of tomatoes that yields some 10,000 quintals. There can be no doubt that there are those who even take advantage of our own mistakes, who have moved into town, built a mansion, and left the farm there in the countryside. Some of them are living much better than the cooperativized farmers, and this hurts us from an ideological standpoint.

These are facts that we are fighting against. But these are insignificant numbers of individuals, although the bad side stands out at times. Most of our farmers think and act differently.

[Carrobello] ANAP will be 30 years old in a few months. What to you are its main accomplishments?

[Lugo Fonte] The most significant thing is that in these 30 years Cuban farmers have gained an awareness about being on the side of the Revolution, the Party, and Fidel.

Cuban farmers support socialism. They admire, respect, and love the commander in chief. I can assure you of that.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Intends To Complete Presidential Term

FL1704200591 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The president of the Republic has asserted that the conditions that would have justified his offer to cut short the current presidential term no longer exist. Dr. Joaquin Balaguer explained that the offer was made a year ago when the national situation required possible options for change.

The chief of state spoke to journalist Maria Elvira Salazar in an interview broadcast by a news television network. The reporter asked Dr. Balaguer if his offer to resign next year for an eventual election of new officials was still in effect. The head of government said: It would make no sense; the proposal was made at a specific time and there was no consensus to accept it. The national executive recalled that the present constitutional mandate expires on 16 August 1994 and said he will head the current government.

Dr. Joaquin Balaguer reiterated that his political career will end in 1994, when he will retire and lead a private life. This assertion was included in the interview granted to a U.S. television station and reported by a news network. Dr. Balaguer recalled that last year he announced his decision to not run as a candidate for a new presidential term. He stated: No matter what my health condition may be, my career will end when the current presidential term is over. The chief of state was emphatic on this point.

Grenada

Brathwaite Denies Rumors of His Resignation

FL1804133091 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 APR 91

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite says rumors of his impending resignation are completely false. He told the Voice of America he faces challenges in running the Grenadian Government, but he won't back down from them. Mr. Brathwaite says the serious economic problems facing the country are among the greatest of the challenges.

Haiti

Demonstrations in Port-au-Prince; No Casualties

Rally at U.S. Embassy

FL1804122291 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Hundreds of Haitians have demonstrated in the country's capital against the country's upper class. Members of Haiti's upper class are accused of setting fire to an open market in Port-au-Prince Tuesday night. The demonstrators attacked cars and several stores with batons and rocks while police used tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Protesters also chanted anti-American slogans in front of the U.S. Embassy, but no casualties were reported. Haitian Prime Minister Rene Preval charged that the protests were caused by what he called forces opposed to change.

Hypolite Market Fire Protested

FL1704210591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1830 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The capital was in a state of panic following the demonstrations to protest against the fire in the Hyppolite Market last night. Businessmen pulled down the metal shutters on their premises. The windows of several vehicles were shattered. An apparent calm reigns for the moment. We say an apparent calm because there are still groups of demonstrators in some areas of the capital where we are going to join our mobile unit two.

[Begin mobile unit reporter recording] This is the mobile unit for Radio Metropole. We are on Main Street next to La Boulangerie Francaise [The French Bakery] where there is a group of demonstrators chanting words hostile to [word indistinct] and who demand Aristide for ten years... [corrects himself] sorry, who demand Aristide as president of the Republic for life. The demonstrators are still there.

I must point out that the tension which was in some quarters this noon has eased and calm has more or less returned. There is still tension, however, in the area surrounding the Cafeteria [location of the 4th police company] where policemen have surrounded the area and demonstrators are present. They have tires which are synonymous with necklacing. One can see discarded tires left by some demonstrators. For the moment the activity is in the area surrounding the Cafeteria, where demonstrators have congregated.

I just passed by the National Palace. Everything was quiet. There were no demonstrators in the area surrounding the Haitian Armed Forces General Headquarters. The only group of demonstrators virtually in the streets can be found on Main Street. Some people tell us that we should move because glass is still being shattered. In this case, we do not want to venture too far. We will check it out in awhile. One can clearly see from a distance that the demonstrators are there. They are brandishing their burning tires and criticizing the bourgeoisie whom they hold responsible for the current situation. [end recording]

Peasants Demonstrate Against EDH in Gonaives

FL1704234091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Gonaives]

[Text] Today people in Gonaives are demonstrating for water for irrigation and also because of the high cost of living.

[Begin correspondent recording] A few hundred peasants from the Gonaives plain came to town to protest against Electricite du Haiti [EDH], which has not supplied electricity to the Gonaives Plain Development Organization [ODPG], in order to have water. This situation resulted in a drought. The peasants were walking with hoes, picks, dry wheat, and corn stalks. They also carried several posters which stated: "Electricity, 24 hours a day for the plain;" "Without food, there is no justice or education;" "Misery is not sweet."

According to a peasant whom we met during the demonstration, about 3,700 hectares of land have been lost to drought. According to them, there are about 1,000 hectare planted with eggplants; 1,850 hectare with millet, and 700 hectares with corn. They are calling for help because they can no longer cope.

According to Guy Bien-Aime, another peasant whom we met, the ODPG does not owe money to EDH. The peasants met last November with the EDH director and the ODPG director. They were advised that the ODPG owed no money. It is meanness on the part of EDH which caused the drought in their gardens.

When the peasants arrived in front of the EDH power plant in Gonaives, they knelt and cried, saying: Misery is not sweet; things must change in Haiti. The demonstrators were on different streets in the city but all activities were functioning as usual. [end recording]

Wealthy Citizens Pledge $5 Million to Government

FL1804131091 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Haiti's government announced Tuesday night that it had received donation pledges totaling nearly $5 million. The promises came after an appeal by the Haitian Government to wealthy citizens. Officials say the money will be used to create jobs and lower prices on basic necessities.

FNCD Officials Protest Attack on Idly Cameau

FL1704221091 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1145 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] condemns the policy adopted by the forces of darkness that made an attempt on the life of Idly Cameau, an official of the Committee of the Haitian Workers.

A note, which is signed by Turneb Delpe and Evans Paul, explains that it is a matter of chameleons which change color all the time. Under of the pretext of wanting to support President Aristide in front of the National Palace last week, these anti-change forces almost had Idly Cameau burned alive. Without the providential intervention of a Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] official, Idly Cameau would have died. On that score, the FNCD officials acknowledge and congratulate the members of the FADH.

Conacom's Benoit on Socialists' Meeting in Aruba

FL1704215091 Port-au-Prince Tele-Haiti in French 1230 GMT 16 Apr 91 (Tentative)

[Excerpts] The Latin America and Caribbean branch of the Socialist International met from 10-11 April in Aruba. Haiti was represented at this meeting by the leaders of the National Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] and the National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, which are the two main Haitian socialist parties. The meeting was convened to encourage cooperation between Haiti and the governments stemming from the socialist family. The organization favors the integration of Haiti into Caricom which is the Caribbean Community Common Market. Moreover, a call was issued for a regional conference to be held on

Haiti, in Port-au-Prince, with the participation of the Haitian Government and the governments of the ind /s- :rialized countries. Victor Benoit explains.

[Begin Benoit recording] It is important that the little countries move forward, and forward together. There cannot be mutual rivalry. We have great historical proof, great international proof showing how this can be done. This is shown in the Western European countries moving forward together within the framework of the EEC [words indistinct].

The second idea is that it is not in the interest of the little countries of the Caribbean and Latin America to deal separately with the IMF. [passage omitted] That is why the Socialist International stated at the session held in Aruba that good political intelligence recommends that these little countries get together to have a concerted policy concerning the IMF. I do not ask them to fight against the IMF, but to have common positions. In this way, they can have the means to preserve their independence, their political independence, while solving their economic problems. When we say this, when we take this responsibility, we think that the admission of Haiti to Caricom must be accompanied by a new orientation in Haitian diplomacy. [passage omitted]

We in the Socialist International say that this new model of economic development must be far from.... [changes thought] It must not at all be the same as the new form of wild capitalism, heartless capitalism, unscrupulous capitalism called neo-liberalism which has caused a lot of damage in a number of places. Moreover, the new model of economic development must not be bureaucratic collectivism because this economic system has failed in the Eastern European countries. It is our responsibility as the Caribbean to get together and look for the best model of economic development we can obtain. They are willing to have Haiti help them work on this matter too, in the interest of all the countries in the region.

The countries are interested in knowing the political orientation of the Preval government and especially the current priorities relating to economic development matters. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Netherlands Antilles

Johnson: Restructuring Outprioritizes Economy

FL1704143891 Bridgetown CANA in English 1115 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Bottom, Saba, April 17, CANA—Will Johnson, whose Windward Islands People's Movement [WIPM] ousted the ruling Saba Democratic Labour Movement [SDLM] in last Friday's Island Council elections, lists the constitutional restructuring of the Netherlands Antilles as a priority for a WIPM government assuming office in July.

"My priority is the constitutional matter, followed by the economy. We have to look at the relationship between Holland and Saba on the one hand, and Curacao and Saba on the other hand," Johnson told CANA. "We do not have much of an option. Curacao will definitely go on its own," said Johnson, whose party won four of the five seats in the election.

Johnson, the island's senator in the federal Parliament in Curacao, said the referendum to be held in Curacao later this year will only confirm the signed agreement between all the parties in Curacao that Curacao sever its direct links with the four other islands which make up the Netherlands Antilles (Bonaire, St. Maarten, Saba, and St. Eustatius).

"We cannot wait for that to happen. We have to start talking with St. Maarten and St. Eustatius. We have to act as if Curacao is already on its own," said Johnson.

Following his party's victory, Johnson has called on the island's Lt. Governor Sydney Sorton to ensure that the outgoing SDLM Government makes no major decisions which are likely to "handicap the incoming administration."

"Our party has won two elections in one year (the other being the federal elections in March 1990). The present government has been rejected by the voters. And I hope that they will not think that it's business as usual," said Johnson.

El Salvador

Rebels Attack Atonal Battalion Headquarters

PA1704203091 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Atonal Battalion headquarters in Usulutan was attacked early this morning. A spokesman for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] called this radio station this morning to say that this attack was in response to the military operations that the Salvadoran Army is carrying out in Chalatenango Department and other specific areas of the country, as well as in reprisal for the death of FMLN Commander Jesus Rojas.

[Begin unidentified FMLN spokesman recording] At 0335 this morning, members of the National Army for Democracy carried out an attack on the Atonal Battalion headquarters in Usulutan. Fighting continues at this hour of the morning in the southern area of Usulutan. Fighting has also been reported north of the city of Usulutan. Likewise, clashes have been reported in the area known as Punta de Diamante and in Santa Elena, Santa Elena jurisdiction. This operation is part of a political-military campaign in response to the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government's stubborn position at the negotiating table. The FMLN, therefore, reiterates that it reserves the right to continue its military operations in the capital cities of the departments throughout the country until serious and formal agreements are reached at the negotiating table.

We would also like to add that this attack was in reprisal for the death of Commander Rojas, a member of the FMLN. His death occurred within the framework of a military operation launched by the army in Chalatenango Department and other departments throughout the country. This type of operation is further proof of the army's warmongering attitude. The FMLN once again reiterates that it will continue its military operations until the peace, so strongly desired by the Salvadoran people, is attained. Thank you. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] reported that the FMLN's attack on the Atonal Battalion headquarters in Usulutan only caused civilian casualties. Coprefa reported that civilians Jose Enrique Ramos and Juana Orellana were wounded when an 81-mm mortar, fired by the rebels, hit their home. Other houses in the El Molino neighborhood, located near the military base that was attacked, were also damaged. Coprefa added that following the rebel attack, Atonal Battalion and 6th Infantry Brigade troops launched a search and destroy operation to locate the rebel groups.

It is now 1248 and we have learned that fighting in Usulutan Department is sporadic. We have heard unconfirmed reports that the town of California, south of Usulutan, has been occupied. Fighting in the city of Usulutan ended at approximately 0900. We have confirmed reports that the FMLN did occupy stretches of the Coastal Highway, specifically in the area known as Ojo de Agua, 3 km north of Usulutan.

Coroner Reports on Rebel Leader's Autopsy

PA1804010391 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Report by Carlos Yoses]

[Text] The autopsy performed on Antonio Jose Cardenal, known as Jesus Rojas, by the coroners at the Dr. Roberto Max Ferrer Legal Medicine Institute at the Isidro Menendez Judicial Center, has discarded the theory that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front commander received a coup de grace. Dr. Juan Matheu Llort, director of the Legal Medicine Institute, reported that no signs of gunpowder were found in the left molar area.

[Begin Llort recording] As all of you know, Cardenal's body was brought to San Salvador from Arcatao hamlet, San Jose las Flores Municipality, on Friday. The coroners do not know how the body was brought here. The autopsy on the body of Antonio Jose Cardenal, a 35-year-old, 182-cm, 200-pound, caucasian male, was performed on 16 April. There were no signs of torture on the body.

The cause of death was head wounds caused by rifle bullets and perforations in the abdominal area caused by fragmentations of explosive devices. We cannot determine the cause of the hematoma on the lower right leg. As you can see on the blackboard, we have made a sketch so that the coroners can explain in more detail the autopsy performed yesterday. From a legal medical point of view, it was determined that the death was due to [words indistinct] [end recording].

Guatemala

Direct Negotiations With Rebels To Begin 24 Apr

PA1704190391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1602 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The government of Guatemalan President Jorge Elias Serrano today announced the start of direct negotiations with the insurgents on 24 April at an as of yet determined place.

In a press communique, the Presidency reported that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) accepted President Serrano's total peace proposal. On 8 and 9 April, members of the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) met with two members of the URNG General Command to discuss the terms of the presidential proposal and to get a reaction from the rebels.

The Guatemalan Presidency announced that it is drafting a proposal of complementary topics to be discussed at the peace negotiations. Sources close to the

peace negotiations said that the Guatemalan president is reportedly seeking to preclude the discussion of an agenda during the first rounds of talks by agreeing on one beforehand.

Serrrano showed his satisfaction for the positive reaction to his "total peace" initiative and the URNG's willingness to sit down to negotiate the country's pacification, the document states. It reaffirms the president's determination "to find total peace for Guatemala and end a conflict that has affected the people for decades." Serrano held a lengthy work session last night with CNR President Monsignor Rodolgo Quezada Toruno, who handed over to the president a URNG proposal containing points to be discussed at the negotiations.

Honduras

Callejas Accepts Apologies for DEA Operation

PA1704170791 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Excerpt] President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said today that his government accepts the apologies of the U.S. Government for the abuse commmitted by the DEA. He added that pertinent authorities must issue a sentence condemning or acquiting those who are involved in the case.

The respective courts must determine civilian or penal responsibilities, Callejas said when asked if the contents of the letter sent yesterday to the Supreme Court of Justice would result in the release of the detainees.

Callejas admitted that this case will cause diplomatic problems for him. However, he dismissed the idea that it will hamper relations with the Bush administration.

Callejas said that the U.S. antidrug operation was carried out without the consent of civilian or military authorities.

[Begin Callejas recording] As the government—the executive branch—we have accepted the apologies of the United States. The judge's decision is the court's prerogative. I understand that in the note sent to the judicial branch the United States admitted its responsibility and clarified that this was not a criminal action, but an operation aimed at arresting criminals.

Therefore, we must clearly differentiate between the two situations. I am under the impression that some people want us to punish those whom the U.S. Government has declared innocent. The U.S. Government has vouched for them and has relieved them of any responsibility due to fact that it was a police operation. The violation of our national sovereignty is a different matter, which should not be linked to the cases of individuals who may face criminal charges in the San Pedro Sula court. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Eight Released 'On Bail'

PA1704203791 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Apr 91 p 9

[Excerpts] San Pedro Sula—On 16 April, the Second Criminal Court in this city ordered the relase of the eight individuals implicated in the alleged shipment of 44 kg of cocaine confiscated by the police on 6 April at the "Ramon Villeda Morales" Airport, drugs found on a Belizean Air International plane.

The order for the release of the eight defendants was issued by the court in two separate resolutions.

One of the resolutions orders the release "on bail" of seven of the accused, while the other resolution authorizes the release "for the time being" of Rafael Humberto Nodarse Nodarse, general manager of Belize Air International in Honduras.

In the latter resolution, the court orders that defendant Rafael Humberto Nodarse Nodarse must remain under the supervision of the pertinent authorities.

The seven individuals who were released "on bail" are: Claude Hopkins Woodhell (pilot), Jean Dennis Boileau (copilot), Jose Abelardo Calmet Cruzado (flight engineer), Rafael Tadeo Nodarse Banegas (Belize Air International operations manager), Salvador Edgardo Moran Keydel, Leonardo Antonio Moran Auyon, and Alcides Diaz Aceituno (the last three were passengers). [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the court confirmed that in the same resolution, Judge Fatima Baide de Mena also ordered the release of the Belize Air International aircraft confiscated at the "Armando Escalon Espinal" Air Base when authorities discovered 44 kg of pure cocaine on board.

In addition, the court confirmed that Judge Baide de Mena also ordered the delivery of the merchandise that arrived in the cargo plane, which was destined to local and foreign merchants. It was learned that the airline attorney requested the delivery of the aircraft and merchandise.

On 16 April, after notifying the defendants of her decision, Judge Baide de Mena visited the "Ramon Villega Morales" Airport to inform pertinent authorities of the resolution ordering the release of the confiscated plane. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Ministry Asks U.S. for Information on Bermudez

PA1704151091 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1340 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Press note issued by the Government Ministry in Managua on 16 April]

[Text] On 11 April, the Government Ministry, via the Foreign Ministry, formally filed a petition to the U.S. Government regarding the case of Enrique Bermudez. The petition includes the following four specific points:

1. We asked the FBI for information on an alleged plot to assassinate Bermudez in 1988, because an individual arrested by the police in Nicaragua after Mr. Bermudez' assassination claimed that he had been investigated about the 1988 events.

2. We requested information on two foreign citizens who inopportunely left for the United States the day after Mr. Bermudez' assassination.

3. We requested the forwarding of the document or ruling issued as a result of the examination conducted on the body of Mr. Bermudez by the cemetery's forensic director and the funeral home where Mr. Bermudez wake was held.

4. During the homily at the funeral mass for Mr. Bermudez, Cardinal Miguel Obando referred to a telephone call received by Mr. Bermudez' mother informing her that her son had been assassinated. We requested details on the origin of this call and other information that might be of interest to the police.

Seal of the Government Ministry's Public and International Relations Department.

Conservative Groups Unite, Form New Party

PA1604134191 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Conservatism has been revived. Five conservative groups unite to face the 1996 elections. Five conservative groups were finally united to form once again, the Nicaraguan Conservative Party. For a two-month period the new board of directos shall be: President Celemente Guido and Secretary General Gerardo Alfaro. The following parties joined to make a common front and face the 1996 elections: Social Conservative Party, Democratic Conservative Party [PCD], National Conservative Action, Labor Conservative Party, and a faction of the Conservative Popular Alliance. Here is Gerardo Alfaro to give us the details of the conservative parties' merger.

[Begin recording] [Alfaro] On 8 April, the board of directors was elected; Clemente Guido as president and I as secretary general of the party. This, in effect, is the merger, the unity of the conservative groups comprised of: Social Conservative Party, PCD, National Conservative Action, Labor Conservative Party, and a faction of the party [words indistinct], the name of which was changed by Miriam Arguello to Conservative Popular Alliance, now led by Alfredo Mendieta.

[Unidentified reporter] What system did you use for the election of the dignitaries?

[Alfaro] We have used the rotation system. Currently the board of directors is made up of the president and the political secretary of each party. Each party has two members on the board of directors, making a total of 10 directors. We have decided to use the rotation system, every two months we will have a new president and secretary general.

[Reporter] How long will this rotation system be in effect?

[Alfaro] We believe that this can go on for one year. After one year we expect to hold a general convention that will decide on the party's permanent authorities.

[Reporter] What political situation has motivated this merging of conservative groups?

[Alfaro] Past experience. The 1984 elections provided us with a very unpleasant experience [words indistinct] and we, who were the country's second political force, were able to elect only 14 deputies. In 1990, when the PCD registered to participate in the elections alone, none of its legislative assembly candidates was elected. With this experience we realized that without unity we would achieve nothing, so we started working for unity to have better opportunities next time.

[Reporter] You are getting ready for the elections?

[Alfaro] Not only for elections, but also because the country needs a solid party to overcome Nicaragua's economic and social crisis. [end recording]

* FSLN Position During Strikes Examined

* Support for Economic Program

91CA0099A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Mar 91 p 4

[Text] In the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] organization, reactions to the drastic measures adopted by the government were varied, contradictory, and therefore favorable for the government's strategy.

This is curious. However, after the support expressed by business associations it was in the leadership of the Sandinist Front that the greatest understanding was displayed for the economic measures adopted by the government. Few Sandinists have the courage to admit this publicly, but it is a reality.

The fact is that during the years when it was trying to govern the country the FSLN made a considerable effort to fight against hyperinflation and the economic crisis, seeking to obtain external financial resources to provide new life to the half-dead national economy.

During the time when the FSLN exercised power, it tried on three occasions to implement economic measures like those which the democratic government is applying. It failed in its efforts. However, the more clear-minded and sensible Sandinist leaders know perfectly well that the new government is doing what is correct and necessary.

However, there are not only intelligent and responsible groups in the FSLN. There also are, and they clearly have a great deal of power, those who advocate the blind rejection of everything which comes from the new government.

In this context, the assembly of Sandinist trade union leaders held on 10 March in Managua rejected the government's economic program but also categorically rejected the moderate positions of those who appear to make up the majority faction of the FSLN.

A Sandinist labor leader known for his radical approach said: "We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by any political party or even by some members of the National Assembly who speak in the name of the workers...."

He said: "Le us go out on strike!" He was obviously directing his remarks at his comrades who voted in the National Assembly for a statement favoring the measures taken by the government.

However, the confusion and divisions within the FSLN exist not only between the labor and business sectors of the party. Even the National Directorate is torn by internal contradictions. It knows that while Daniel Ortega defends the ill-considered positions of the FNT [National Federation of Workers], the majority of the other members of the National Directorate are speaking up for political modernization and for toleration of the economic policy measures of the government.

Whether they are extremists or moderates, the Sandinists know that they have no real chance of regaining power over the short term. Both Luis Carrion as well as Daniel Ortega, to personify the opposing views, know that it would be an act of tremendous folly to try to overthrow the government of President Barrios de Chamorro.

What is happening in the ranks of the Sandinists is that one sector of the party believes that economic recovery and stability is a national commitment in which the Sandinists must participate loyally and that they must do so to regain the trust of the people and project the FSLN as a responsible party which knows how to deal with modern conditions in Nicaragua, participating in the current history of the country to the point of becoming an alternative to return to power democratically. The other sector of the FSLN considers that only a confrontational and violent attitude is revolutionary. Some of the latter continue to be committed to the crazy slogan that "Nicaragua will be Sandinist, or there will be no Nicaragua for anyone."

However, it is clear that the extremists are a minority element in the FSLN. They seem to be more numerous because small, well-organized, and aggressive minorities are imposing their will on the majority of the workers, are paralyzing economic activity, and are occupying the various installations of business firms and institutions.

When the police cleared out the Bureau of Customs, it was discovered that only about 20 individuals had been occupying it. A striker admitted publicly that if they do not occupy buildings by force, the majority of workers and employees would work normally, despite the fact that they are suffering from serious economic difficulties.

On the other hand, the positions of the moderate Sandinists lack the spectacular touch. Those who choose modernization are even afraid of stating their points of view openly, because they are insulted and threatened in various ways.

* Dual Responsibility

91CA0099B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 91 p 2

[Commentary by Danilo Aguirre Solis]

[Text] Since the first confrontations between organized workers and the new government, different views have been expressed, providing various views and speculation on the political meaning of the conflicts. This means specifically whether or not the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] is putting on the brakes, obstructing, or encouraging those struggles.

A few people, in an unthinking or bad-intentioned way, have alleged either that the FSLN is limiting the struggle of the workers or is driving it forward from behind in an act reflecting a "double standard of morality" in its responsibilities as a party and in its relations with the government.

In both cases divisions and a lack of confidence have been fostered.

As we come to the end of the latest conflict, it would be appropriate to take a moment to analyze this problem, which I consider has now been presented in a completely clear way.

To begin with, it is necessary to confirm that the FSLN is also the FNT [National Federation of Workers], the ATC [Association of Agricultural Workers], and the National Directorate and that it is pointless to try to divide the party into sectors in order to portray one element of the FSLN as acting in an autonomous way, while another element has the weight of the political organization as a whole behind it.

It is clear that the FSLN, IN ITS OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, has, among other things, two clear areas of action with their own limits and responsibilities.

On the one hand there are the economic and social demands of the organized workers. On the other there is the FSLN's overall and strategic role as one of the principal political parties participating in the life of the state and its geopolitical outlook.

There can be no argument that the workers' organizations have their own weapons in this struggle and their own responsibilities, within the freedom of movement provided by a knowledge of their needs and the outer limits of the negotiation with the state and with employers.

At the same time the FSLN, as a political party, has its own obligations and responsibilities in the context of public life, with short and long term aspirations which it must coordinate with a precise examination of society and the degree of approval which society extends to its actions.

That is, for the first group, it is enough that those sectors represented in it should join in its struggle, although for obvious reasons, involving a conflict of interests, they are not successful in ensuring that their demands have the same reception throughout society.

For its part the FSLN cannot halt or restrict the demands of its labor organizations. However, as a national political party it must do this as if it were responsible for everything.

Thus, for example, as long as the FSLN claims as its own, demands made by the central trade unions and demands for improving health and education, it must become a responsible negotiator with the government, so that workers' and the nation's well being benefit from whatever agreements are reached.

The political parties must know the exact moment when it is appropriate to give priority to their political programs before or after their economic and social claims. That is a political moment, a moment of choice for governing.

The workers' organizations must also share this same vision.

Thus it can never be expected that a political party will prevent its organized workers from continuing their own struggle. It also can never be expected that each major social and economic demand will fit into the political program of the party.

In conclusion, it is certain that there will be those who believe that each strike should be accompanied by a possibility of revolutionary upheaval. There also will be those who state that the party must have its own labor organizations, in order to extend political truces to the government, distorting its obligation to act like an opposition party.

It seems to me that things are very clear now. Those who insist in one way or another on creating confusion should act in a responsible way and become a new group of rebels or open collaborators with the government.

Panama

Endara: Arias Calderon Created 'Espionage Office'

PA1704133591 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Apr 91 p 1A

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has explained that it was First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon who created a "political espionage" office under the Public Force [FP] that was protected by the Government and Justice Ministry and was allowed "to meddle in the private lives" of people.

Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) that is now in the opposition following the break in the government coalition, said that the alleged intelligence office reported by Eusebio Marchosky continues operating as of March at the National Police headquaters.

"They meddled in the private life of a relative of mine and other people close to me. I am surprised by the manner in which they did it," Endara said without specifying who, when, where, or why.

Endara, who, along with his new cabinet members, attended a closed-door meeting with Chamber of Commerce members at the Marriott Hotel last night, pointed out that the "intelligence office" under the police was uncovered by Marchosky, a magistrate of the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property (DRP).

The president said this office was engaged in "political espionage," thus violating all regulations regarding the conduct of investigation offices; namely, that they should investigate only criminal affairs or internal matters of their particular institution.

As evidence, the president said files had been opened on the new City Mayor Omaira Correa, the government alliance itself, the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], and that the office had infiltrated the Labor Party (PALA) convention.

Endara was then asked about statements made by former FP director Ebrahim Asvat to the effect that Endara had no plans to demilitarize Panama. The president pointed out that the recent draft amendments to the Constitution to outlaw the existence of armed groups in the country are the best evidence that contradict those statements.

"I do not know what is wrong with Asvat; he clearly knows that I have plans to demilitarize the nation, but now he is in the opposition and he can say what he feels like saying," he emphasized.

The president forecast that Arias Calderon will change his mind about not attending the cabinet meetings. Endara said that as head of the government, he is going to continue inviting him to the meetings. "We will wait a few more weeks."

Meanwhile, he categorically denied a report that appeared in LA PRENSA about the alleged visits of PRD leader Ernesto Perez Balladares to the Presidency, and he also denied reports given by Miguel Batista, vice minister of the Presidency, who insisted that this was a government of reconciliation.

"I do not know who invented that...I read it in the newspapers," he angrily said. "They say that he [Perez Balladares] went there to take [Presidential Adviser] Tony (Antonio) Dominguez, with whom he went to school in Notre Dame; I really do not know, but to enter the Presidency to talk with the president...never."

Endara Discounts Safe-Conducts as 'Not Imminent'

PA1704134791 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Apr 91 p 1A

[Article by Elkilia Santos]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara said today it is not imminent that safe-conducts will be granted to former collaborators of General Manuel Antonio Noriega who sought refuge in various embassies, even though Foreign Minister Julio Linares had announced this would be happening within the next few days.

"I do not know why he (Linares) said that, but I do not think there is anything imminent," Endara said when consulted about the safe-conducts.

Foreign Minister Julio Linares announced last week that safe-conducts would be delivered almost immediately to former military officers Heraclides Sucre and Gonzalo Gonzalez, who sought refuge at the Peruvian Embassy, a former military officer who remains under asylum at the Guatemalan Embassy, and civilians Rafael Arosemena and Luis Gomez, who remain at the Mexican and Cuban Embassies, respectively.

For his part, Endara announced that various alternatives to the problem are being studied, but he has not yet reached a conclusion.

Ford Memorandum on Economic Program Published

PA1804025091 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Apr 91 p 18a

[Memorandum to President Guillermo Endara Galimany by Planning and Economic Policy Minister Guillermo Ford, dated 2 April]

[Text] **Memorandum to:**
Your Excellency
Guillermo Endara Galimany
President of the Republic and
Ministers From: Guillermo A. Ford B.—Minister Subject: Negotiation of the Economic Program With International Financial Institutions (IFI's) Date: 2 April 1991

The content and extent of the economic policies that will establish a new course for our economy must be negotiated with top levels of the World Bank during the last week of April, at the latest.

In August, the cabinet expressed its political will to reform and modernize the public sector, as well as the policies establishing the resources that the private sector will allocate for production.

The process to develop such policies and the specific plans to implement them have encountered various obstacles. This has thrown the negotiation with the IFI's off schedule.

In addition, the complexity of our economic program has required and continues to require a technical effort from the various offices of the public sector in general, and the Mippe [Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy] in particular, that has gone beyond what we imagined in the beginning.

Fifteen months of our government have passed and we have successfully completed the first phase that we set out to complete: the stabilization of the economy. We attained this through austere financial management, fiscal and tax reorganization, and the normalization of banking policy following the timely decision to eliminate restrictions on bank operations.

The Panamanians' faith in their country and their confidence in the government resulted in an econmic recovery. The year 1990 closed with a 3.4 percent growth in the gross national product, in real terms.

We cannot expect the recovery process to continue if we do not face, decisively and courageously, the actions for structural reform that will lead to the creation of jobs and an economy whose growth can be self-supported.

The agreement with the IFI's is within the framework of this effort. The payment of our delinquent accounts and the stabilization of the economy are necessary conditions, but not enough for the international financial community to agree to return to Panama its previously creditworthy status. Even if we had all the necessary funds to pay up our delinquent accounts, we would still need to recover our credibility and this can be done by proving that our economy is growing because the program implemented by our government, duly negotiated with the IFI's, guarantees it. We have the results of one year. We need to show our creditors the outlook for our growth and the basis for it: the program to reform economic policies and the legal framework that has been established for it.

We know what to do and how to do it. The IFI's also know it, based on independent technical opinions. There are no differences regarding the direction of the changes. The opportunity to negotiate the speed of implementing them is present right now.

The executive branch must establish the parameters for the negotiations to reach an agreement with the IFI's as

soon as possible. We would then move on to the phase in which we will remove all structural obstacles to generate new investments and make the public sector more efficient because it will play a new role in the economy.

We would thus eliminate the impasse created by our inability to become creditworthy, guaranteeing the financial and technical assistance that the international community is prepared to give to our country.

Allow me to present a brief outline of the consequences we would face if no agreement is reached with the IFI's:

1.**We would not be able to meet our overdue payments with those institutions and the efforts exerted by the country from April 1990 to this date to pay the debt would be rendered null.**

We would have disbursed more than $300 million and still would not recover our status as a creditworthy nation. A "green light" in the negotiation would result in:

- Creation of the Support-Contribution Group $130 million

- Disbursement of the U.S. Donation for the

IFI's Sub-Program $130 million

- Stop-gap Treasury Loan (to be paid in 6

months with IFI's funds) $150 million

These resources, along with the resources we have available for the operation, $130 million, would allow us to pay the amount overdue.

2.**We would not have access to support loans for structural reforms and we would not be able to reactivate the projects included in our investment program.** The World Bank and the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] have been considered sources of funds to finance the program (see attached graph). Disbursements to the end of 1992 might reach approximately $350 million.

The financial support from these institutions involves technical assistance for complex projects and represents a guarantee of good management for the governments of the developed countries; governments that support the risk of equipment suppliers and finance investment projects.

3.**We would not be able to continue using the funds donated as a result of Agreement No. 525-0303 with AID.**

To date, we have only been able to use a small portion of these funds.

In addition to the $130-million contribution to make the overdue payment with the IFI's, there are two disbursements, for $42 million each, that are still pending. One of them would be available this year and the second, after receiving the first portion from the IFI's.

4.**The refinancing agreement with the Paris Club creditors would be rendered null.** We would go back to a deliquent status with creditor governments, and credits to suppliers from these countries would be cancelled—not to mention the possibility of never receiving financial cooperation from these governments again.

a.**Credit to Suppliers**

Developed countries, such as the United States and Japan, usually grant—through the appropriate institutions (such as the Eximbank in the United States)—credit lines to cover the risk of local suppliers and promote the technology of said countries. This coverage largely reduces interest rates on credits to suppliers, thus making supplies for public projects cheaper.

b.**Governments' Financial Cooperation**

The governments with previous credit relations with Panama are closely following our association with the IFI's, to immediately open credit lines for development projects. They directly invest in structures that allow them to analyze the countries' financial position. In fact, they control the appropriate use of funds for international financial cooperation through their representatives in the IMF and World Bank boards of directors.

5.**We would not be able to get support for operations to reduce the commercial debt within the framework of an appropriate strategy for Panama.** The IFI's can provide the financial resources we need to negotiate operations to reduce our commercial debt. The amount will be specified after this phase concludes and we begin to prepare a strategy for the negotiations with commercial banks.

It is appropriate to mention that President Bush's Initiative for the Americas establishes several conditions. One of them is that a satisfactory agreement must be reached with commercial banks for a country to become eligible and receive the benefits established in that program.

The benefits include a large reduction of the bilateral debt and funds for ecology programs.

6.**Limitation in Public Investment Programs.** Overcoming the current situation and successfully handling this program, which is to end in late 1992, will allow us to reach a new stand-by agreement with the IMF and implement other programs with the IDB and the World Bank.

This will guarantee the source of soft long-term loans that the country must maintain to finance its social and economic infrastructure through investment programs. If we are unable to achieve this, we will continue deteriorating the current infrastructure instead of promoting the modernization and improvement of services for the inhabitants of this country.

7.**Lack of new local and foreign private investments.** If no agreement is reached with the IFI's, our government will be sending a negative signal to the business community here and abroad. The countries competing with Panama in efforts to gain capital investments—most of which are

much more advanced in the process to open their economies—would increasingly limit our opportunities. We would be left behind in the path of "internal development" which is linked to population growth.

Social problems would continue to increase, leading us to a spiral of violence and a situation that neighboring countries are already experiencing.

FUNDS FROM THE IFI'S (Minimum subject to negotiation)

DISBURSEMENTS UNTIL THE END OF 1992 ACCORDING TO THE PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM

A.LOANS TO SUPPORT REFORMS

First Portion—To reimburse loan from the U.S. Treasury
IMF $50 million
IBRD $50 million
IDB $50 million
Total $150 million

Second Portion (1992)
IDB $25 million
IBRD $25 million
IMF (still to be defined, based on negotiations with commercialbanks)

Third Portion (1992)
IDB $25 million
IBRD $25 million

B.FUNDS FOR PROJECTS

We currently have projects for $150 million in 3 years. In 1991, we will receive approximately $30 million; in 1992, $50 million, and the balance, later on.

The rate of disbursement for these funds will depend on the progress of the Investment Program.

C.FUNDS FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE DEBT REDUCTION WITH COMMERICAL BANKS

Amount yet to be negotiated.

Presidential Official on Public Force Independence

PA1704172591 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Deputy Presidential Minister Miguel Batista has stressed the need for an independent Public Force [FP]:

[Begin Batista recording] The FP should never, under any circumstances, be under any political party. I hope that they [FP] are listening to this interview. The FP members should never answer to any political party. I told some officers who frequently visited my office: Please do not hang around my office so much; this will not benefit you in any way. If we, the Arnulfists, are going to leave behind something good for the nation, it should be an independent FP. We are going to govern this nation until 1994 and then the people will elect their rulers. If the people elect the PAPO [Peoples Action Party] or the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], the FP members have to be loyal to that president, because that president was elected by the people. This concept must be very clearly established. [end recording]

Attorney General's Office Freezes Accounts

PA1804021191 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Apr 91 p 10

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Based on information received from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Attorney General's Office has frozen $8 million in accounts that belong to companies currently being investigated for laundering money coming from drug trafficking. These companies are represented by the Endara, Delgado, Solis, and Associates law firm in Panama. The companies were formed by the aforementioned law firm at the request of the late U.S. attorney Juan Acosta, who, apparently, was involved in drug trafficking.

DEA agent Ivette Torres carried out the investigation on this case, and her report was made public by PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] legislator Gerardo Gonzalez last week. With this information, the Attorney General's Office and its Drug Secretariat [secretaria de drogas] proceeded to freeze the companies' accounts which amounted to $8 million. However, after the media leaked the DEA report, the U.S. Embassy issued a communique stating that President Guillermo Endara's law firm is not being investigated in this case. The communique added that lawyer Hernan Delgado, partner of the aforementioned law firm, is cooperating with the DEA.

The companies, whose accounts have allegedly been safeguarded, were used by Florida drug kingpins Augusto Falcon and Salvador Magluta to launder the illegal money obtained from trafficking cocaine. The companies did this for more than 10 years, and Endara's law firm represented them in Panama during this period. The companies are: Hassid Enterprises Inc., Enterprises Ramadan Inc., Motores Marinos de Panama S.A., Copan Marine Service Inc., and Southern Farms Inc.

DEA agent Ivette Torres, who was stationed in Panama and whose sworn statement at a Miami court giving the names of the companies allegedly involved in money laundering was made public, was sent out of the country because there is fear for her life. One week ago, several empty cartridges and a white powder that was supposedly cocaine were left at the door of her Punta Paitilla residence. In addition, unidentified persons broke into her residence and left a note threatening to kill her.

Torres had investigated the relationship of the companies, whose accounts have been frozen by the Prosecutor General's Office, with the drug trafficking gang headed by Falcon and Magiuta. For 10 years, these men smuggled one metric ton monthly of cocaine into the United States and laundered money through the corporations registered by the Solis, Endara, and Delgado law firm.

The investigations conducted by Torres were disclosed by opposition legislator Gonzalez, who asked the Legislative Assembly's ad hoc commission, which looks into drug trafficking-related offenses, to study the relationship between the law firm and these corporations. This reporter learned, however, that the president of this commission, legislator Leo Gonzalez of Molirena [National Liberal Republican Movement] has discounted Gerardo Gonzalez' remarks.

Canal Zone Union Members March to Presidency

PA1704173491 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Members of the Local 907 labor union are marching to the Presidency this afternoon shouting slogans and demanding solutions, and once there, they hope to present a list of demands to President Guillermo Endara. Included among the demands is that measures be taken aimed at postponing the withdrawal of U.S. bases from Panama, as this will directly affect hundreds of Panamanian families' petition to the national government for an adequate interpretation of the canal treaties. These demands also include the implementation of formulas to employ Panamanians who will lose their jobs at the U.S. military bases currently operating in Panama.

Argentina

President Menem Announces Antidrug Measures

PY1804015091 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Apr 91

["Address to the nation" by President Carlos Menem from the South Room of Government House in Buenos Aires; live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen and Argentine brothers and sisters:

As president of the Argentine nation, I decided today to extend federal government intervention to the executive and legislative branches of Catamarca Province. The federal interventor-designate is Luis Prol, who will proceed to appoint those officials who will assist him in his administration.

Second, I have instructed the defense minister to order the Air Force and the National Border Police to conduct, in cooperation with the U.S. Government, an aerial photographic survey of our territory to detect possible clandestine landing fields, coca plantations, or any other clues of drug trafficking activity.

Third, I have ordered the attorney general to initiate an investigation of crimes that may have been committed at the fiscal warehouse and at the Ezeiza customs facility in the past decade.

Furthermore, I have decided to ask the Senate to expeditiously approve the Law of Ministries so I can administer the oath of office to Leon Carlos Arslanian as justice minister. I have given Mr. Arslanian the following instructions to effectively fight corruption:

To urge approval of the bill creating six federal criminal and correctional courts, six prosecutors offices, 24 assistant prosecutors offices, and teams of accounting experts to provide direct and personal assistance to the federal judges in the capital;

To urge approval of the new penal procedures code, which establishes trials based on oral arguments throughout the nation and which, accordingly, increases the number of courts;

To urge approval of the new organizational law on criminal justice;

To urge approval of the prosecutors law with a view to making penal prosecution as effective as possible;

To expedite the deregulation program in the various public administration sectors;

To urge, through the attorney general and criminal prosecutors, the investigation, trial, and punishment of crimes committed by organized groups. This type of crime is currently seen in the various forms of the drug trade, the laundering of money stemming from this activity, smuggling, mechanisms for committing fraud to the detriment of the state's revenues with the possible involvement of government employees, and various forms of corruption in negotiating contracts;

To give judges charged with hearing these cases every form of cooperation in order to punish those responsible for these crimes, irrespective of their position or rank;

To take steps to make it possible for judges to be selected through consultations with organizations representing attorneys and judges and with the Supreme Court;

To draft laws that will be instrumental in fighting these modern crimes, especially a law against organized crime [ley antimafia];

To improve the legal instruments concerning drug trafficking;

To establish a data bank on legal proceedings currently before the federal courts nationwide that deal with some of the actions included in the antinarcotics law;

To establish a data bank on smuggling proceedings currently being heard by the Buenos Aires court in charge of economic crimes; and

To request congressional approval of the laws establishing an ombudsman office and a national comptrollers office.

The measures we are adopting are in line with what we have advocated from the very beginning of our administration in order to strengthen democracy and freedom, which then, as now, was being undermined in an awkward manner.

We have said we will view corruption as a crime against the fatherland. We are awaiting approval of the pertinent laws by Congress, which has been making a significant contribution—it could not be otherwise between the legislative and executive branches. I am saying this to assert that the government branches are fulfilling their obligations.

A campaign was recently launched by the foreign media—not against the Argentine Government, but against the Argentine president's relatives. Today, reports are treacherously and arbitrarily accusing the president's son.

Undoubtedly we are up against a very dangerous enemy. An enemy that intends to establish itself in countries like Argentina which have decided to carry out an all-out war against drug trafficking and all that it encompasses. This is why we have submitted a draft bill requesting the death penalty for drug traffickers.

As you can imagine, this international crime organization—which moves over $600 billion per year—is able to invest resources to establish itself in a country that, unlike others in the world, is not yet fully contaminated by a true scourge, which is affecting today's world.

This is why I wish to warn the Argentine people not to fall prey to these campaigns. Let us strive to defend our nation. Let us properly defend ourselves because, no matter how difficult it is to struggle against this organized crime—as has been shown by other Latin American countries, like Colombia and Peru where narcoterrorism is devastating—this government will combat it.

I am urging you to make every effort to help in this campaign to avoid establishment of these criminal gangs in Argentina. Let us do this for our generation and for the generations to come, for future generations of Argentines.

I reassert that Argentina can still be described as a drug transit country. By announcing that we will undertake joint actions with the United States to study the possible existence of landing strips, we are telling the world that all means available will be used—without undermining our sovereignty—to progress in the all-out war against what, I reassert, is an internationally organized mafia.

The drug traffickers, who are very wealthy, can purchase anything, but, with our firm decision to not let them exist, we will continue growing as we are now.

We are overcoming a long, dense, and difficult crisis. We must continue contributing our best efforts to the tasks we have been implementing in the economic and political fields, and we must extend these efforts to the social field.

I can assure you that if our national life continues to develop the way it has been developing and if we continue to exercise power the way we have been—with the authority coming from the hands of the president of the Republic—we will continue obtaining significant results. These results will be as positive as those we are obtaining in the economic field, which has consistent, knowledgeable teams.

If things continue the way they are, I can assure you, my Argentine brothers and sisters, that within the two or three years I have asked that you grant me, we will build a country worth living in. May the Lord bless you. Thank you very much. [applause]

Brazil

Draft Bill on Minimum Salary Sent to Congress

PY1604235691 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The government will publish tomorrow in the official gazette a draft bill establishing new rules for the minimum salary. According to this draft bill, the minimum salary will be readjusted every six months. The 17,000 cruzeiros minimum salary for March will be the basic minimum salary and a 3,000 cruzeiros bonus will be paid in April. The minimum salary will be readjusted in September according to variations registered in the price of the family basket during the March-August period, including the 3,000 cruzeiros bonus. In December and June—that is, every three months [as heard]—the minimum salary will be readjusted by 5 percent on real terms.

Government experts also created a system to protect salaries: When inflation or the family basket price varies by more than 33 percent during a three month period, the minimum salary will be increased the following month by that percentage.

When Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello announced this project, she said that the essential thing is the free negotiation of salaries between capital and labor. However, she said, the weaker sectors must defend cost of living adjustments.

[Begin Cardoso recording] We are sending Congress this draft bill on the minimum salary in which we establish a biannual adjustment; that is, a real 5- percent increase every six months. [end recording]

Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello also said that the draft bill is part of the modernization of relations between capital and labor based on free negotiations. According to the minister, it was necessary to create a mechanism to protect certain weak sectors of the economy. This mechanism, she said, is a specific rule for the minimum salary.

USSR Accord Eliminates Some Visa Requirements

PY1704141491 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Summary] Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek and Soviet Ambassador to Brazil Leonid Kuzmin signed an agreement at Itamaraty today to eliminate the visa requirement for passports of official and diplomatic personnel of the two countries.

Trade Balance Registers $1.079-Billion Surplus

PY1704135891 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Summary] The Brazilian trade balance registered a $1.079-billion surplus in March 1991. Brazil exported $2.604 billion worth of goods and imported $1.525 billion. Trade volume for the January-March period was up by 85 percent in comparison with the same period last year. The most important Brazilian exports were iron ore, coffee, soy bean flour, shoes, semimanufactured iron and steel products, and aluminum.

*** Drop in Agricultural Production Assessed**

91SM0254A Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Mar 91 p 3-1

[Article by Maristela Mafei: "First Collor Administration Harvest Poor; Imports May Increase"]

[Text] The success of the first farm harvest under the Collor government is threatened. There has been a loss of 5.2 million tons of grain in the southern region as a result of drought. In the regions in which good weather conditions have prevailed, the total increase expected comes to 700,000 tons.

The official figures released by the IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics], which pointed toward a production total of up to 65 million tons for the 1990-91 harvest, have dropped to a volume of about 60 million, alongside similar production in the preceding harvest, which was regarded as poor.

The country will have to import 2.7 million tons of corn, beans, and rice, and will be unable to export about a million tons of soybeans. In 1990, 1.2 million tons of the three products were imported.

Apart from affecting the development of the trade balance, the decline in the harvest indicates that there will be "agricultural shock" (pressure exerted by farm prices on the indices by which inflation is measured) in the second half of the year, leaving the country dependent on imports to complete the needed supply.

The southern region, which accounts for 60 percent of the country's grain production, is experiencing the worst drought in the past five years. Technicians at the National Supply Company (CNA), a Ministry of Economy body, are in the field working to revise the official harvest estimates.

The fact that preliminary figures will not be released until next Friday means that the decline may be greater than foreseen for the cooperatives and economic institutes of the states affected. The final crop totals will be released in April, when the harvest is completed.

Last year, the harvest total came to 58.5 million tons. This volume did not suffice to supply the domestic market. The regulatory stocks of grains held by the government made a significant volume of imports unnecessary. In 1991, however, the stock level is not sufficient for even one month.

The weather in Mato Grosso was regarded as exceptional, pushing the estimates upward. This does not mean that the loss in the south will be offset. Rio Grande do Sul lost 1.1 million tons of corn, while Mato Grosso expects an increase of 30,000 tons of this grain. Sao Paulo is producing an additional 40,000 tons of beans, while losses of this product in Parana came to 150,000 tons.

Goias has produced an additional 300,000 tons of corn, but the losses of this product in Parana total a million tons. That state faced its worst period of drought at the end of December. Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul are experiencing their second critical period of drought. Parana is the leading producer of cotton, beans, and corn in the country. Rio Grande do Sul leads in soybeans and rice.

In the Upper and Middle Uruguai, Missoes, and Middle Plateau regions in Rio Grande do Sul, it has not rained for 60 days, according to reports from the Federation of Brazilian Wheat and Soybean Cooperatives (Fecotrigo). The crops most seriously affected are corn and soybeans. In these localities, 300,000 tons of these two products have been compromised.

Organizations representing the Rio Grande do Sul Producers, such as the Fecotrigo, Farsul [Rio Grande do Sul Agricultural Federation], OCERG [expansion not given], and Fetag [Federation of Farmworkers] will petition the Ministry of Economy for emergency credit in the amount of 12 billion cruzados to assist 35 cooperatives. They advanced credit to the producers for the purchase of seeds and supplies which, in view of the loss of the harvest, is not going to be paid out.

Ruy Polidoro Pinto, vice president of Fecotrigo, recalls that the rural insurance issue has not yet been settled. If the emergency credit is not released, the losses will be charged against the bankruptcy of the cooperatives and the compromising of a part of the planting of the next wheat harvest.

The product most seriously threatened in Santa Catarina was beans, with a decline of 44 percent. In the central-western portion of Santa Catarina, the principal grain-producing center, the drought has been the worst in the past 14 years, according to Jose Norberto Kreetzder of the state's cooperatives organization. The losses have been estimated at 30 billion cruzados.

In Parana, the losses due to the decline in the rice, bean, cotton, soybean, and corn crops total 73 billion cruzados, according to the Economy Department of the Secretariat of Agriculture (Deral). Roberto Petralska, director of the COAMO [expansion not given], in Campo Mourao, Parana, has reported that the soybean losses may be greater than the Deral estimates if it does not rain again this week.

In the opinion of Roberto Rodrigues, president of the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB), the losses due to the drought could have been minimized if the plants had been more resistant. He recalls that for the 1991 harvest plantings, a low index of fertilizer application was reported.

Map of the Drought Areas
(effects of the drought on agriculture/thousands of tons)

Product	Initial Estimate	Current Estimate	% Decline
Parana[1]			
Soybeans	4,400	3,900	-11
Rice	218	135	-38
Beans	470	320	-32
Cotton	1,150	820	-29
Corn	6,200	5,200	-16
Santa Catarina[2]			
Soybeans	480	370	-23
Beans	250	140	-44
Corn	2,600	1,800	-31
Rio Grande do Sul[3]			
Soybeans	5,200	4,200	-19
Beans	3,700	2,600	-30
Corn	124	105	-15

1. Source: Deral, Parana

2. Source: Ocesc [expansion not given], Santa Catarina

3. Source: Fecotrigo, Rio Grande do Sul

Farm Price Rise Blocked

According to the analyses by the consulting firms serving the farm sector, the beginning of the corn harvest in February and the decline in the consumption of rice and beans will prevent supply problems and price pressures on the three products in the medium-run. In the second half of the year, the farm price level will depend on how skillful the government is in developing and producing regulatory stocks at the proper time.

The historic average for bean consumption in Brazil—230,000 tons per month—dropped 20 percent between November and the present, as a function of the loss of purchasing power for the population earning up to the equivalent of three minimum wages. These figures were provided by Commercial Farm Advisory Technical Editions (Etac), the largest consulting firm serving the country's farm sector.

Given a normal consumption situation, the bean deficit for 1991 would have been 300,000 tons. With the decline in consumption, it will be necessary to import only 150,000 tons, according to Wlamir Brandalise of Etac. He estimates that there has been a decline of 15 percent in rice consumption from September to the present as a function of the escalation of the price of this product.

Paulo Molinari, of Harvests and Markets, believes that the foreign exchange situation may complicate corn imports—even those coming from Argentina at declining prices. In 1990, Brazil imported corn at $130 per ton, while the price is now down to $100.

Brandalise calculates that at current prices, the country will spend almost $350 million to import rice, corn, and beans in 1991, and will fail to earn $1 billion in foreign exchange due to the smaller volume of soybeans available. The increase in prices on the international market may offset the decline in the invoicing of soybeans. A significant increase in prices, however, will depend on the information released about the North American harvest of this product.

Corn production in the 1990-91 harvest, which was initially estimated at up to 27 million tons, will now be 24.5 million, according to the Harvests and Markets analysis. The soybean total, initially estimated at 18 million tons, is down to 16 million, according to the Etac, which also predicts a reduction in the first bean harvest from 1.2 million to 750,000 tons.

Unlike the situation in Parana, the rice crop in Rio Grande do Sul was not affected by drought. Even with an additional 1 million tons in the Rio Grande do Sul harvest, the volume will not suffice to supply the domestic market.

Both the Etac and Harvests and Markets question the efficiency of the Brazilian port structure in terms of handling the increased farm imports in 1991. Estimates point to 1.2 million tons of grain in addition to the volume imported last year.

*** Founding of New Labor Organization Discussed**

91SM0263A Sao Paulo VISAO in Portuguese
13 Mar 91 pp 10-11

[Article by Jo Ristow: "A Force That Divides"; first paragraph is VISAO introduction]

[Text] Willing to negotiate "even with Satan," former metalworker Luiz Antonio de Medeiros is establishing a new central union.

At a time when everyone is talking only about national understanding, the chairman of the Sao Paulo Metalworkers Union, Luiz Antonio de Medeiros, is grabbing on to a proposal that may divide the working class and weaken Brazil's three-legged unionism consisting of the two CGT's [General Confederation of Workers and General Central Union of Workers] and the CUT [United Federation of Workers]. Officially founded this weekend, the new central union known as Union Power is counting on a broad negotiation with the federal, state, and municipal governments to succeed in the main struggle being championed by Medeiros: that to mobilize society in the fight against recession.

Supported by more than 300 unions, two confederations, and 20 federations—representing nearly 6 million workers—Medeiros's Union Power intends to follow paths contrary to those being followed by Jair Meneguelli's CUT. In Medeiros's central union, which came into being despite criticism by his opponents in the union

movement, who accuse him of supporting the government, there is no room for partisanship or radical positions on either the right or the left. Union Power wants to be an autonomous reference point. To ensure success in achieving his objectives, Luiz Antonio de Medeiros says he will struggle for the great national issues but will always be flexible in negotiations. "I will even negotiate with Satan," he says repeatedly. It does not enter his mind, however, to include on his list the names of Francisco Caninde Pegado, chairman of the CGT, Meneguelli of the CUT, or Joaquim dos Santos Andrade ("Joaquinzao") of the General Central Union. Proof of this is that so far he has paid no attention to the proposal that state employees go out on strike this week. "I don't know who is calling that strike, but I do know that it is political, and that may lead the union movement into one more defeat." While distancing himself from the other central unions, Medeiros is exhibiting friendliness with the most diverse political factions. Invitations to attend what he called a "democratic meeting—the congress" (held at the Latin America Memorial in Sao Paulo this weekend to make Union Power official) were sent by Medeiros to representatives of the three major segments of the worldwide union movement: one consisting mainly of Christian workers, another consisting mainly of social democrats, and still another headed by communist parties. Invitations were also sent to Mayor Luiza Erundina (PT [Workers Party], Sao Paulo); the governor-elect of Sao Paulo, Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho (PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], Sao Paulo); the governor of Rio de Janeiro, Leonel Brizola (PDT [Democratic Workers Party], Rio de Janeiro); and Mayor Jaco Bittar of Campinas, who is leaving the Workers Party.

"Union Farce"

While Medeiros feels that establishing another central union will provide an alternative for "a large number of workers who do not feel represented by the current organizations," CGT leader Caninde Pegado says that Union Power will only slow the union movement's progress in our country. "That central union is only a facade. And we are going to prove to the workers that what Medeiros founded was a union farce—a central union for Casa da Dinda," says the union leader, referring to the ties between the chairman of the new central union and Planalto Palace. The same criticism is expressed by the chairman of the Sao Bernardo Metalworkers Union, Vicento Paulo da Silva, or "Vicentinho," who says that Medeiros's stand confirms suspicions that President Collor has found in Medeiros the union arm which the government was lacking. "He has no commitment to the working class; he supports the businessmen and was in favor of the Collor Plan," "Vicentinho" charges.

To those who share the stand taken by Pegado and "Vicentinho," the chairman of Union Power sends this message: "Things are proven in practice." As an example, he cites the case of the firings at Autolatina, where, he says, the union movement got public opinion on its side by rebelling against the "Federal Government's arbitrary" act and won the confidence of the workers. "The government backed down when it realized it was wrong, and that is very good." But his opponents have facts on which to base their suspicions. Medeiros has free access to President Collor and is one of those mentioned as a possible successor to Antonio Rogerio Magri as minister of labor and social welfare if there is a cabinet reshuffle. Medeiros is considered one of the men the president most prefers to talk to, at least when it comes to possible agreements with the workers. Last year Collor even landed by helicopter at the rural headquarters of the Metalworkers Union in the interior of Sao Paulo to consult with the union leader concerning the best way to cope with the workers' problems. Medeiros says that his close relationship with Planalto Palace is simply proof of his political flexibility in the struggle for workers' rights. "They said before that I was an ally of Governor Orestes Quercia (Sao Paulo), and now it's Collor. I insist again that practice will show who is who."

Who Is Who

The first steps toward establishing Union Power were taken in August of last year, but it was not until the approach of the central union's congress that the cadres recruited by Medeiros began making up their minds. The CGT, which is where Minister Magri came from, has already lost a few members in Belem and Rio de Janeiro. Not to mention union leaders Francisco Cardoso of the Guarulhos Metalworkers Union in Sao Paulo and Luiz Carlos de Miranda Faria and Luiz Martins de Souza, both metalworkers who were also associated with Pegado. Also going over to Medeiros's side were Arnaldo Goncalves of the Santos Metalworkers Union, Enilson Simoes Moura of the Union of Supply Workers, and Feliciano Moreira of the Parana Civil Construction Union, all of them previously affiliated with "Joaquinzao's" CGT. Medeiros says: "That CGT no longer exists; the only ones in it are 'Joaquinzao' and MR-8 [8 October Revolutionary Movement]." That statement irritates "Joaquinzao," who from all indications is going to join the CUT and Pegado's CGT in their collision course with Union Power. Pegado guarantees: "We will be a rigid opposition."

Although Meneguelli—whose only remark concerning the new central union was "I have nothing to say about it"—Pegado, and "Joaquinzao" are on the opposite side from Medeiros, Minister Antonio Rogerio Magri glimpses the possibility of a courtship between them. "It is possible that Union Power will join with the CUT and the CGT later," he predicts, even though the picture is the exact opposite at the moment. Medeiros's conviction that he is a nonpartisan and pluralist leader does not enjoy much credibility at the Ministry of Labor. At least in the opinion of the minister's adviser, Aloisio Azevedo. He predicts that Union Power will soon unite with a political party. "Medeiros is closely linked to Governor Orestes Quercia, who belongs to the PMDB." If that happens, the union leader will have no grounds on which

to criticize the CUT, which is linked to the PT. Medeiros never tires of saying that "unions cannot be hitched to political parties." "Vicentinho" believes that Medeiros's national fame is due precisely to his opposition to the CUT and the PT. "If I wanted to be in the public eye, too, all I would have to do is criticize Lula and the CUT." Despite that, Union Power has thrown its net among the CUT's members and caught at least one "comrade with considerable experience," according to "Vicentinho." The comrade in question is Claudio de Camargo Cre ("Magrao"), chairman of the Osasco Metalworkers Union, who, although he calls himself an independent, was a member of the CUT for six months. "We left because the regional CUT wanted to control the union movement in Osasco. It was permissible for it to observe, but never to interfere" is the criticism made by "Magrao," who joined Union Power because he believes that it will not be like the others, which he says have had time to take off but have not done so. "The CUT has been used by the party."

According to Medeiros, Union Power wants to "stop running after trouble" and to focus its attention on proposals for the country's development. To do so, it is organizing itself into study groups to draw up economic, social, and political proposals, and once that is done, it will focus its activities on the National Congress.

Chile

Aylwin Views Rebel Decision To Lay Down Arms

PY1704205691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] President Aylwin has said that he is happy to learn that the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] has given up armed struggle, and he hopes the decision actually becomes reality. Aylwin added, however, that the FPMR is not the only group resorting to rebellious attitudes during the process of transition to democracy going on in Chile. Santiago media has reported that he commented on the decision by the armed group while talking with the press in Strasbourg.

[Begin Aylwin recording] A few minutes ago, I received the news that one of the groups that has been conducting terrorist actions in Chile has publicly announced that it will not resort to these actions in the future. I am very happy about this decision and hope that it actually becomes reality.

I realize, however, that this is not the only group in Chile that is resorting to these rebellious attitudes. We are organizing ourselves politically to face the possibility that other groups will not follow their example. All Chilean political parties are preparing to reject and isolate terrorism. We will resort to all legal mechanisms available to defend ourselves from this menace, but we will not resort to authoritarian methods under the excuse of fighting terrorism. [end recording]

President Aylwin Cited on Military, Economy

PM1804081591 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Translated interview with President Patricio Aylwin by correspondent Jon Snow in London on 11 April; from the "Channel 4 News" program—recorded]

[Text] [Snow] Well, I've been talking to President Aylwin, of Chile, first about the Rettig Report, which identified many of the victims of Chile's human rights abuses. I began by asking him what good it was knowing who the victims were without bringing those responsible to justice.

[Aylwin] To have truth is part of justice, to be able to allow the country to know what happened. The whole country should know that these people were victims of violations of human rights, and they were not delinquents or criminals who have been killed in clashes. The history of the transition from dictatorship to democracy in the world shows that justice, complete justice, is very difficult to obtain. Very often it means to go back to a political crisis that existed before the dictatorship.

[Snow] In this early period of your democracy, do you find yourself eternally looking over your shoulder at the military?

[Aylwin] People ask: What has happened to the chief of the army (General Pinochet)? Our transition is not a normal one. There hasn't been a normal one. There hasn't been another one like it in the world. It's like imagining that in Spain democracy would have been established with Franco alive, and Franco head of the Army. However, there is an explanation: We opted, in Chile, for going back to democracy within the rules set out by the military government. Those rules put the Army under the jurisdiction of the civil authority. When I took power, General Pinochet told me: I depend on you, but I will not take orders from the defense minister. I told him: You are wrong, according to your Constitution you respond to me and to the minister of defense, we are your boss and you have to obey us. Relationships have been full of respect, and I believe that the Chilean military wants to reassert themselves in their professional activities.

[Snow] Now, Chile has the strongest economy in Latin America, and that has been achieved, in part, by a monetary system pushed by General Pinochet that didn't depend on the democratic wishes of the working people. What's going to change now that you've got democracy?

[Aylwin] I believe economic stability demands social balance, otherwise there will be sources of conflict, of social conflict. That was one of the greatest fears that people had in Chile. People said, in Chile, that Aylwin's victory is going to mean strikes of workers asking for demands that the economy won't be able to endure. The workers have shown great wisdom, and we have

achieved agreement between them and the entrepreneurs. They are actually in agreement to regulate their policy of salaries, and where they ate last year and where to eat next year [sentence as heard]. As far as inflation goes, for us it's fundamental, for a success of the economic policy, to insure there is a microeconomic balance to avoid that inflation which affects most Latin American countries and their military governments after going back to democracy. We don't want that to happen to Chile.

SELA Official Comments on Americas Initiative

PY1704195991 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Report by Carmen Castro]

[Text] The Americas Initiative shows a positive change in the attitude of the U.S. Government toward Latin America, but it should be complemented by suggestions from Latin American and Caribbean countries so that it does not become a unilateral U.S. proposal. This was stated by Carlos Perez del Castillo, the permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System [SELA], who is currently visiting Chile and who held a meeting with acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas.

Regarding the Americas Initiative, Perez del Castillo said that although it is not feasible to negotiate as a bloc with the United States, it is necessary for Latin American and Caribbean countries to jointly discuss and develop active diplomacy seeking to perfect the Americas Initiative, incorporating regional criteria.

Twenty six Latin American countries, and the directors of 14 international organizations will meet at the SELA headquarters in Venezuela to discuss these issues from 22 to 24 April.

Carlos Perez del Castillo said:

[Begin Carlos Perez del Castillo recording] The Americas Initiative shows a change in the attitude of the U.S. administration regarding Latin America because it is now granting our region a greater priority. Perhaps it now recognizes that this region is more relevant and important than it has admitted in the past.

We must ponder the nature of this attitude change. I do not believe that the Americas Initiative is an answer to the Latin American development issue. Rather, it is another means to promote the different reform processes that are taking place in the region and which, as is well-known, fall within the framework of American philosophy.

I would also say that the different motives for this change of attitude do not matter, we must admit that the Americas Initiative is in response to U.S. economic and strategic needs to counteract the establishment of great blocs, such as the EEC and Japan, which challenge U.S. financial and technological leadership. I believe this is very important because if it does respond to U.S. needs, our ties must be guided by actions that will be mutually beneficial. [end recording]

The document [as heard] states that the Americas Initiative has drawn the attention of Latin American countries because it promotes actions in three key sectors: trade, foreign debt, and investments. Perez del Castillo estimates that joint agreements will be difficult to achieve in view of the [words indistinct] and diversified Latin American economies, but that framework agreements can be achieved. He added that the Americas Initiative will most likely be first achieved with Mexico and Chile.

Extradition Request for FPMR Militants Reviewed

PY1704144291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] The Second Military Court of Santiago has filed three petitions for the extradition of Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] militants living in Spain. The requests have been received at the Supreme Court secretariat and are awaiting processing.

The petitions involve Jorge Alejandro Martin Martinez, German Alfredo Rojas, and Cristian Marcelo Valenzuela, the three of whom gave a news conference in Madrid for Chilean journalists accompanying President Aylwin on his European tour.

The aforementioned FPMR terrorists were involved in crimes which have been heard by the military courts, such as the attack on former President General Augusto Pinochet in Cajon del Maipo in which five of his bodyguards were killed.

The Supreme Court must decide on these extradition requests and, if they are approved, send the background information to the Foreign Ministry to begin the extradition proceedings through diplomatic channels, as is usual in these cases.

Colombia

CNG Proposes 'Immediate' Talks With Government

PA1704195091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1812 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Bogota, 17 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG) today proposed to the Colombian Government an "immediate" dialogue aimed at finding a political solution to the armed conflict in this South American country.

In a communique sent to the media this morning, the CNG maintains that the Catholic Church's most recent efforts to achieve a rapprochement between the two parties have failed because "of the government's inflexible positions."

The leading organization of the Colombian guerrillas—which includes the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN)—pointed out, however, that its resolve to find a political solution to the confrontation remains unshakable.

"Also, our decision to meet immediately with the government to start a dialogue under the eyes of the country and with full guarantees for the two parties is still in effect," the communique adds.

The CNG thanked the Colombian Episcopal Conference for its efforts in setting up a peace meeting between the government and guerrilla groups over the past month.

In its communique from "the mountains of Colombia," the CNG proposed the mediation of "friendly governments, Red Cross, or National Constituent Assembly" in new negotiations.

Guerrilla actions have increased in Colombia since 9 December after the Army invaded an extensive area of the Uribe mountain range (220 km southeast of Bogota) where the FARC had maintained its headquarters for the past two decades.

The CNG has repeatedly proposed that any peace talks with the government be held in that region, known as "Casa Verde," which should be demilitarized beforehand.

Peace efforts made this year have failed because of disagreements on the site for the talks.

Car Bomb Explodes in Medellin; 5 Injured

PA1804010191 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] A new terrorist attack has just taken place in Medellin. According to the first reports, the attack took place in a parking lot in the western part of Medellin, capital of Antioquia Department. Five persons were injured and 10 vehicles were destroyed; the overall damage has not yet been estimated. The film you are now viewing shows the 10 vehicles that were destroyed.

The attack was carried out with a car bomb placed in front of the Exito Store on Colombia Street. We have just learned that the five injured persons have been taken to the Medellin Hospital.

Minister: No Brazilian Troops Entered Territory

PA1804022991 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Bogota—The Colombian Government has denied reports that Brazilian soldiers attacked Colombian miners at the border area. Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo told Radio Cadena Nacional that the delegation [words indistinct] sent to the border area said that two weeks ago, a group of armed civilians—allegedly Colombians—attacked a Brazilian surveillance post and killed three soldiers. The foreign minister said the people who attacked the surveillance post were later killed in clashes with Brazilian soldiers. Jaramillo also revealed that three Colombian miners had been arrested by officials of the Amazons Command, which is located in Brazil. Foreign Minister Jaramillo Correa said that Brazilian troops have never entered Colombian territory to attack civilians. On the contrary, the [words indistinct] attacked the surveillance posts of neighboring Brazil, he said. [Paris AFP in Spanish at 0732 GMT on 12 Apr 91 in a similar report adds: "The Colombian Government commission that investigated the border incidents reported in Bogota today that the Brazilian Army 'violated Colombian air spaces' and committed 'excesses and abuses' against Colombian citizens. The commission's report on the inspection of the Taraira mountain region, which borders with Brazil and is 1,000 km to the southeast of Bogota, concluded that the Colombian presence 'in the area of conflict is almost nil.'"]

Constitutionality of Extradition Exemption Upheld

PA1704182691 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Apr 91 p 8A

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice has cleared the way for the drug traffickers who surrender to the Colombian justice to enjoy the rights of non-extradition and shorter sentences.

During a nine-hour long extraordinary session, the Supreme Court declared that Legislative Decree 303 of 29 January is constitutional. With this decree, the government has abolished the deadline for handing over those persons who have requested special status.

The Supreme Court ruled that the government did not overstep its authority, as established in Article 121 of the Constitution, when it authorized the creation of this special status. According to the Court, the governmental action was aimed at reestablishing public order.

The disposition expanded the reaches of Decrees 20-47 and 30-30, the first such items to be issued by President Cesar Gaviria as part of his strategy to peacefully contain the advance of drug trafficking and terrorism.

The decree that yesterday passed its constitutional test states that anyone who voluntarily surrenders to the justice authorities will have the right to the shorter sentences established in Decree 30-30 and will not be extradited for any crime, confessed or otherwise, committed prior to the date of the surrender as long as the person serves the jail sentence imposed.

In addition, the Supreme Court has created the appropriate mechanisms for the judges to ask the foreign authorities to provide any proof and information they may have on investigations being conducted in their respective countries against the person on trial, "be this on the same case or on other cases under investigation in Colombia."

Likewise, the Supreme Court established that attempted escape, successful escape, retraction of a confession, or a

false confession, will be considered violations of decrees 20-47 and 30-30 and the guilty party will be subject to extradition.

In another ruling, the Supreme Court declared that Decree 213 of 22 January, by which the government pardons the rebels who lay down their weapons and assimilate into the legal political process, is constitutional.

In a change of decision, the Supreme Court said that the abolishment of punishment and the penal action in favor of Colombian citizens who are authors of or accomplices in crimes of a political nature, is the same as a pardon and that the government, in use of its special rights, may grant this.

The Supreme Court, however, invalidated the norms contained in the disposition by which a pardon can be granted even if the judge has yet to rule whether there is a connection between a political crime and other crimes the guilty party is charged with.

The Court ruled that in this regard, the Executive Branch is stepping into an area that is strictly reserved for the judge.

Articles 42 and 43 of Law 10 of 1990, by which the national system is reorganized, were also declared constitutional. With this law, the state consolidated its monopoly on gambling in the country.

Congress Prepares for Contitutional Transition

PA1704163491 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Bogota—At an informal meeting, the Congress has approved a statement supporting the validity of the 1990 decree No. 1926, which convoked the National Constituent Assembly, and opposing the revocation of the mandate given to its parlamentarians.

The Congress also voted, 300 in favor and 15 against, to support the Supreme Court of Justice decision on the legality of Article 83 of the current Constitution which determines the number of votes required to make electoral reforms.

Furthermore, it expressed its support for President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo's statements reaffirming the legitimacy of the parlamentarians who were elected last year.

An additional statement was approved at the informal congressional meeting. The Congress stated its intention to promote talks with the National Constitutional Assembly to coordinate the transition from the current legal system to the new constitution that will be in effect on 5 July 1991.

Peru

* San Roman on Legislative Session, Change 90

91SM0255A Lima CARETAS in Spanish 18 Mar 91 pp 26-28

[Interview with First Vice President Maximo San Roman by Alberto Bonilla; place and place not given; first paragraph is CARETAS introduction]

[Text] This will be a legislature of consensus building with the executive branch and with the other political parties, announces the President of the Senate and First Vice President of the Republic, Maximo San Roman, in this exclusive interview. The most significant new development, however, is the announcement of talks with the party presidents at the Palace, which is a major about-face for President Fujimori.

[Bonilla] Will the second regular session of the legislature see better coordination with the executive branch?

[San Roman] We have conducted an evaluation with the premier and the ministers of economy and labor, and subsequently with President Fujimori, regarding the performance of the first legislative session. There was an obvious lack of coordination with Premier Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller, although there were ongoing conversations. The time and the urgent need to solve some problems immediately, made it impossible to coordinate the legislative work better. On this occasion, in contrast, we have had several meetings with Minister Bolona on specific bills that can be debated as soon as the session begins. We have given priority to issues according to their importance. I think that this second session will be much more productive, at least in terms of the quality of legislation.

[Bonilla] Does this mean that the legislature will push forward bills that will be compatible with the supreme decrees issued by the Ministry of Economy and Finance?

[San Roman] Indeed, the 16 decrees that appeared this week are part of the battery with which we intend to eliminate 20 obstacles that impede our development. We have been analyzing these obstacles with the executive branch. We must continue making legislative adjustments to help restore the public's confidence in productive activity.

[Bonilla] In the coordination between the executive and legislative branches, are the political parties also involved, or will their existence continue to be considered in the abstract?

[San Roman] Not only are there meetings between the ministers and the main political leaders, but we have also made progress on talks with the president. At the most recent luncheon we had last week, I specifically proposed to him that we meet at my home with the party spokesmen, who had stated that the presence of President Fujimori was necessary, even indispensable. The

president replied that it would be better to meet at the Palace. We are coordinating that now. The problem is, time goes by very quickly, and we continue to postpone this meeting that should already have happened.

[Bonilla] In any case, will it happen before the second session begins?

[San Roman] I hope so. And the meeting with the legislative spokesmen should continue with another one with the party presidents.

[Bonilla] Is the president making course corrections?

[San Roman] We would not want to put it in terms of a correction. President Fujimori has always said, ever since the political campaign, that we are the best example of consensus. The economic emergencies and the need to solve problems as soon as possible have meant the postponement of the consensus building.

[Bonilla] Have you had an influence on this change of attitude?

[San Roman] I had been asking the president for many months to begin opening up in this way. Fortunately, now this is the president's intention. Perhaps before he did not feel the time was right, but he has always been in contact with representatives of the other political parties. What has been missing are coordination meetings.

[Bonilla] How are relations with the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA)?

[San Roman] I have read some statements by the general secretary of APRA, who is somewhat concerned about the country's plight. However, in the talks we have had he has told me he intends to collaborate with the government on solving the country's great problems.

[Bonilla] And what about the United Left?

[San Roman] They are upset about the labor decrees. This is a very combative group. Perestroyka has not yet come to Peru. When it does, perhaps they can cooperate constructively.

[Bonilla] Do you find that the parties constituting the Democratic Front (Fredemo) are more understanding?

[San Roman] In some cases we have put together a majority with them, but in other cases we have done so with APRA. There is no permanent agreement. It depends on the interests or the issue being dealt with in the legislature.

[Bonilla] Do you believe it will be possible to continue those precarious agreements throughout the five-year term of your administration?

[San Roman] I think that the experience of the absolute majorities enjoyed by previous governments was not very positive. I think that any issue requires a far-reaching debate and consensus, the most positive thing that can be achieved from the current structure of the legislature.

[Bonilla] The consensus building has been a failure internally, however, given the announcement of expulsions, even that of Vice President Carlos Garcia ....

[San Roman] It is a tricky problem. Carlos Garcia is a magnificent person, but at a given moment he behaved in a way which had a negative impact on the president. I hope that common sense will prevail, that the problems will be resolved and the waters will return to their normal level. At such a critical juncture we should unite, not divide.

[Bonilla] The president of the Chamber of Deputies stated twice last week that Garcia may be expelled....

[San Roman] I respect that position but I do not share it....

[Bonilla] Many insist that Victor Paredes is really the spokesman for the Palace....

[San Roman] I have read about that in the press, but there are several of us who are in permanent dialogue with President Fujimori.

[Bonilla] What is the final decision on the announced expulsions?

[San Roman] It is up to the National Executive Committee, which is about to be reshuffled; I am not a member of it. I do not know what its current orientation is. As you know, ours is an independent movement, although it was registered as a party with the National Election Board (JNE), which is open to all citizens.

[Bonilla] Exactly. The only positions of that movement that are known are the promises and announcements made by Fujimori as a candidate during the campaign. They are very different from the policy he has pursued during the his first eight months in office.

[San Roman] Those changes have been very logical. During the campaign we received quite positive information about the country's economic situation. At that time we proposed a program that would not affect the population's buying power. We always said that we would seek economic stability as an indispensable means of promoting development. The problem is, far from inheriting a treasury with $800 million, we inherited negative reserves of $150 million. Another situation we found was that many of the state enterprises, such as the State Fishmeal and Fish Oil Production Agency (Pescaperu) and the Peruvian State Mining Enterprise (Mineroperu), had been conducting advance sales which we are just now carrying out. Do you know that Mineroperu cannot even pay the freight charges of the National Railway Enterprise (Enafer)? In view of this national tragedy, we had to take the most appropriate measures, and we could not commit ourselves irresponsibly to fulfilling our campaign promises. I believe the measures

that have been taken are the best suited to our needs, and the latest adjustments will finally give the country greater freedom to invest in productive activities in all the areas that had been abandoned. Our previous governments—I do not want to blame only the most recent one—have always persecuted and punished success. A number of legal obstacles were put in place, making our growth timid and covert. All of our laws are designed to control rather than to promote. That is what needs to be changed.

[Bonilla] Getting back to Change 90's change in course once it took office, do you think it would be useful for President Fujimori to give the country an explanation of what you have just told me?

[San Roman] The president has a very unique style that makes many people uncomfortable: He is not the traditional politician who is constantly making promises that he sometimes cannot keep. The president is a pragmatic person, and first he wants to show results in some areas. Nevertheless, I believe it is necessary to give the citizenry more information. I think a message from the president would be desirable.

[Bonilla] Because there are those who say that you promised what people wanted to hear during the campaign just so that you would win, in keeping with the most traditional political style....

[San Roman] I would like to go back to what we promised during the campaign. The president summed up his platform with the slogan, "honesty, technology, and work." And we are making those three things a reality. All the people the president has brought together to support him are honest, although perhaps in some cases that honesty has not been accompanied by the ability to make decisions. And if there is anyone who is not honest, please let us know. Technology is something that goes hand in hand with investment, which we are trying to attract with the latest measures. And as for work, we put in 12 to 14 hours a day....

[Bonilla] Although no one can question their honesty, some of the people recruited by the president arouse suspicion. Such is true of the head of the National Social Communication System (Sinacoso), Mr. Sosa, who has now been given the task of reorganizing the system he directs....

[San Roman] The president probably does not have all the background information on this man. I have also heard some comments. In any event, it is up to the president to make a decision when he has more information.